

DISTRICT No. 12,  
 IONA GRAND NARROWS, N.S.,  
 5th September, 1882.

The Right Honorable  
 The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have to submit this, my first Report, on the state of the Indians of this District for the year ending 30th June last. The tabular statement which accompanies this Report will show the population, progress in agriculture, etc., of the Indians residing on the Middle River Reserve, which is the only Indian settlement in the County of Victoria.

The land in this reserve is well adapted for the raising of potatoes and wheat—more attention being given to the raising of potatoes than to any other crop. I may say that potatoes are the principal article of food among the tribe, and even, at times, the only one, especially when the eels are scarce in the vicinity.

As a rule the Indians of this band are industrious. Their life, however, is a hard one; ease or comfort does not fall to their lot. Yet they are always happy and contented—much more so than any other class of people could be under similar circumstances. A few only seem to care for the luxury of living in frame or even log houses; the great majority have a decided preference for camp life.

In winter the men are generally occupied in making tubs and barrels, the women in making baskets and moccasins. These wares they sell in trade throughout the country for the necessaries of life. Baddeck, the shire town of the county, is their principal market, being a distance from the reserve of about 12 miles. The squatters on the old reserve are still in possession, and, according to present indications, there is not much hope of the poor Indians ever recovering the lands that originally belonged to them. Several of the parties who occupy these lands failed to make good their title within the time given, never having fulfilled any of the conditions imposed upon them by the Government. The facts connected with the settlement of those lands have been brought to the notice of the Department time and again, but so far nothing has been done.

With the authority of the Department, I have invited tenders for the building of a school house at Middle River. The contract will be given out this fall and the work completed with as little delay as possible.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
 Your obedient servant,

R. GRANT,  
*Indian Agent.*

DISTRICT No. 13,  
 CHRISTMAS ISLAND, N.S., 12th September, 1882.

The Right Honorable  
 The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
 Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for your information, my Report on Indian affairs in this district for the last year. The tabular statement, which is herewith enclosed, is made up from the best sources of information at hand. It will be seen that the statement agrees very nearly with that of last year. The population remains *in statu quo*. There is no increase or decrease to report. There were four births and four deaths during the year. The crop is somewhat better, especially the potatoes and hay, but the number of cattle is reduced. This falling off in the number of cattle is explained from the fact that the last winter was an unusually severe one, taxing the resources of our poor Indians to the utmost to sustain themselves