

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,  
COUNTY AND DISTRICT OF SAGUENAY,  
NOTRE DAME DE BETHSIAMITS, 31st August, 1882.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, in accordance with your instructions, my Annual Report on the Montagnais Indians, together with the tabular statement.

GRAND ROMAINE.

During the year there were twenty one births, eight deaths, five infants and three adults. Fever and colds were the principal diseases. At the present time they are all well.

The codfish taken last summer were of great assistance to them. I am unable to state precisely the quantity taken, as the Indians cannot count, and as they always say it is much less than it really is. It is the same with regard to furs, so that they may obtain more from the Government, and it is the same with each band.

During the summer while at the sea the cod is their means of support, they sell it to merchants for other necessaries of life. By this means they get along well, making no debt all the summer, and were able to obtain advances from the merchants to carry them through the winter while at their hunting grounds. Furs were plentiful, they took numbers of Cariboo and have not suffered from hunger. This year the cod fishery promises a very small yield. I fear there will be some distress while they are at the coast.

The Missionaries, with some little assistance from the Indians, those who have been able to help, and also with the co-operation of some good citizens devoted to the interests of our Indians, have been enabled to commence building a school-house 18 by 25 feet, which will serve as a chapel also, but I do not know when it will be finished owing to want of means. It will cost a good deal, as it is a long way off and every thing required for the construction of the building, which is already too small, has to be taken there, for all the families of Nataskowan are now at Grand Romaine. The Government not being able to give the Indians the land at Grand Romaine for a reserve, after mature reflection I begged the Missionary to erect it at Nataskowan, the old Indian Post of the Hudson Bay Company, instead of putting it up at Grand Romaine; its present site is 24 miles west of Grand Romaine, sheltered behind the river. There are a number of white families at Grand Romaine and many others would build as soon as the Indians had a place which could be used as a chapel, while at Nataskowan the Indians will be by themselves, the traders will not be able to land there and they will have less to do with the whites, and consequently they will be much less exposed to demoralizing influences. They are satisfied with this change.

These Indians are very grateful to the Government for the fishing and hunting articles given them, as they were of great assistance in supporting them. They pray that the Government will be good enough to assist them again next spring with powder, caps, shot, and \$100 to buy flour, lard, two dozen cod lines and two herring nets as the herring nets will procure them bait which is absolutely necessary for cod fishing. I would feel grateful on the Indians behalf if the Government would grant their request.

They would be better pleased to receive the salt in the autumn. I have told them that there is very little chance of this on account of the long distance, the expense, and the want of a building to store it in.

I know of no cases of drunkenness and believe them to have been sober during the year. I am able to say that they are well conducted and give encouragement.

By the tabular statement you will see an increase in the population of this band, which is due to the removal of families from Nataskowan.

MINGAN.

During the year there were eight births, and six deaths, three adults and three children.