

With regard to their condition, it has been much improved since their removal from Oka. Old and young are better clothed, and judging from the copious supply of viands which adorn their tables at noon each day, it is evident that there is a decided change for the better in that line.

They are all very anxious to have location tickets issued as soon as it may be convenient for the Department to do so. With this end in view, I submit herewith a statement giving the names of the Indian families with the numbers of the lots and concessions held by each on the reserve.

Referring to the Government road which was mentioned in a report I made last spring, as then about to be made between the village of Bala to the boundary of the reserve, a distance of about four miles, I am pleased to say that the road has been completed with the exception of about three-fourths of a mile, which it is expected will be finished early next spring.

The Government road leading from Bala to the village of Gravenhurst has also been improved during the past summer, so that now the Indians will experience little or no difficulty in getting out to transact business either at Bala or Gravenhurst.

I urged upon them the necessity of making a good road from the terminus of the Government road to their own settlement, which is some three miles.

This, the chief assured me, his people would do as soon as they could spare the time.

Concerning school matters, I enclose a list of what school material is required for the new school, which they are anxious to have opened as soon as possible. The building which they propose occupying for this winter, is now ready. A stove is required, but the chief informed me that he would be able to obtain one for the winter. The young Indian woman is also ready for work, and is willing to take charge of the school until the services of a properly qualified teacher are secured.

The chief stated to me that it is the intention of his people to make preparation during the winter for building a good school house on the reserve.

Respecting the houses which the Seminary is erecting on the reserve, I beg to inform you that there is only one of the fourteen completed. The others are at different stages approaching completion, and it will be some time before the Indians will be able to take possession of them, unless the Seminary use extra efforts to finish them.

The Indians are anxious to move into them before the cold weather sets in.

With regard to those Indians who now occupy the shanties vacated by the squatters (11 in number), they say that the Seminary must put the said shanties on the same footing as the houses which are being erected on the reserve.

If this is not done I am almost certain that trouble will arise among the Indians.

Those who occupy the houses purchased from the squatters are satisfied with them.

In conclusion, I may add that every means should be used to induce the Indians still at Oka to remove to the Gibson Reserve, where their friends are waiting to give them a hearty and warm reception, and where they will do much better than ever they have done at Oka.

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

JOHN MCGIRR,
Indian Agent.