

I think the most industrious, in the farming way, that I have seen amongst them, is Thomas Thomas, at Lennox Island, who works very steadily on his farm; his wheat and potatoes are excellent. I am happy to be able to state that there is a marked improvement in farming.

Their principal occupation, during the summer months, is fishing, berry-picking and the making of butter tubs, and in the winter they are generally employed in making baskets and axe-handles. They seem to make a good living at their trade. The materials for their manufactures are getting very scarce, and are becoming still more so every year, and unless a still greater improvement takes place, they must, as a consequence, have a hard task to support themselves in the years to come.

Goose hunting has been a failure this year; but very few were killed during the season.

I am pleased to be able to report that they have faithfully kept their temperance pledge which they took last year. A few of the Indians who were not living on the reserves and have not joined their brothers in the temperance cause, are still addicted to strong drinks, but worthy to note the number is very small.

Nearly all the Indians living on the reserves live in houses; six houses and two barns are being built this summer.

I am still teaching on the reserve of Lennox Island; the children attend school very regularly in the winter, and make very fair progress, but in the summer time the average attendance is always small. Some of the parents do not seem to value the education of their children, and take very little pains in sending them to school. During the summer the children are often away with their parents picking berries, so it is impossible to make much progress in the several branches which they study.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN O. ARSENAULT,

Indian Superintendent.

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,

WINNIPEG, 10th December, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report, that from the correspondence received at this office during the year from the different Indian agencies, a general feeling of satisfaction prevails among the Indians of this Superintendency in consequence of the promptitude of the Department in carrying out the stipulations of treaties; the liberal gratuities of provisions generously given those suffering from sickness, infirmity or destitution; the ample quantities of seed grain and potatoes supplied, and the extra number of farming implements furnished to enable them to cultivate their fields to advantage. From the representations of the agents, the only dissatisfaction manifested is with reference to the non-survey of reserves and the want of schools, where none have already been established. It is difficult and almost impossible to secure the services of competent teachers to take charge of Indian schools in remote districts, at the inducements offered by the Department, as the attendance of pupils is, invariably, most irregular, on account of their parents having to wander about hunting and fishing for their living; hence the salaries of teachers are considerably reduced from the maximum allowance granted to them.