

Those on Christian Island are very industrious and generally of steady habits. The able-bodied men do a good deal of hunting during the winter, plant their fields and gardens in the spring, and during the summer months take contracts to load lumber at the saw mills on the "North Shore."

Their school is still taught by the same Indian teacher as formerly; he has not yet procured a certificate of qualification.

CHIPPEWAS OF SAUGEEN.

This band now numbers 359, being an increase of six persons.

Those engaged in farming have grown fair crops during the past year, and a quantity of railway ties have also been manufactured for which there was a good market.

Since my last Report, the teacher of the school at Saugeen village has been removed for incompetency, but as far as I can learn her successor does not give much greater satisfaction.

CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH.

The number in this band is 392, being an increase of four persons.

In addition to the pursuit of agriculture, these Indians entered largely into the manufacture of railway ties last season, getting out, I am informed, in the neighborhood of \$3,000 worth. Their fishing operations have also been unusually successful, which, together with the comparatively large number of cattle raised on the reserve, has enabled these Indians to live very comfortably.

A new council hall and school house has been completed and opened, and in many respects their schools, especially the one at Cape Croker Village, are in a healthier and more prosperous state than ever before.

The more intelligent of these Indians appear to evince a greater solicitude for the better education of their children; but there are still a larger number who showed little or no desire for improvement, still there are undoubted evidences of a gradual progress in civilization among these as well as the Chippewas of Saugeen.

The total number of Indians in this Superintendency who participate in the semi-annual distributions is 2,591, being an increase of 40 over last year. In addition to these there are a number of Indians residing on, or hanging about, the different reserves, numbering 200 or upwards, who are not members of any of the before-mentioned bands, are not included in the census, and do not receive any moneys from the Department.

There are also about 25 families, numbering about 120 individuals, of the Ojibwa and Pottawatamie tribes who came to this country from the United States many years ago and settled on Christian Island, a few of whom still remain there; but the greater portion, 19 families, have removed to "Moose Deer Point," on the north shore of Lake Huron, where they have built houses and brought some land under cultivation. They do not possess any lands nor participate in any money payments, but being of industrious habits, have managed, thus far, to support themselves pretty well.

They have, at different times, expressed to me a strong desire to have a small tract at "Moose Deer Point," where they have settled, set apart for their exclusive use, as they fear that as the district becomes settled they will otherwise have no place to live.

I have, of late, been led to conclude, from more than ordinarily close personal observation, that a strict personal supervision of the bands in this Superintendency, by competent persons, would tend, more than anything else, to bring about a higher state of civilization.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PLUMMER,

Superintendent and Commissioner.