

The Bands within my agency, in the County of Middlesex, viz., Oneidas, Chippewas and Munceys of the Thames, are making sure, although slow, progress in civilization and intelligence. The health of the Indians during the year, generally, has been good. The Muncey Band, through death, lost two of their best members—James Hawk and Richard Wilson.

A few excellent frame buildings have been erected by the Indians during the past year, the Indians wishing, as much as possible, to enjoy the comforts of civilized life.

A good many are making fair progress in farming.

A very large proportion of the Indians are well conducted, and are of sober and steady habits.

The schools on the reserves, with the exception of the Muncey school, which was closed during the year, and the Bear Creek school, which is very poorly attended indeed, are making some progress. The semi-annual visits of the public school inspectors we hope will result in good, they have visited the schools twice during the year—Inspector Carson those on the Caradoc Reserve, and Inspector Dearnness those on the Delaware Reserve. We still find it very difficult to get the children to attend school as regularly as we wish, they have so many excuses to stay away. We are doing all we can to get them to attend better than they have been doing, but find it very up-hill work.

The Mount Elgin Industrial School, on the Caradoc Reserve, which is under the supervision of the Rev. W. W. Shepherd, continues to do good work, and appears to be well conducted. Valuable improvements have been added during the year and are still in progress (they not yet being quite finished), making the Institution building and surroundings far more roomy and comfortable than they originally were.

The giving of liquor to Indians by unprincipled men still in a measure continues, although every effort is made for its suppression, but we hope to see the day soon when an end will come to such work. The Counties of Middlesex, Lambton, Elgin and Oxford, with the city of St. Thomas, have I am glad to say, carried what is commonly called the Scott Act thus completely surrounding my Agency with Scott Act counties.

The usual supply of blankets has been received and distributed amongst the old and needy Indians, as the Councils in their wisdom thought best.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS GORDON,

*Indian Agent.*

WESTERN SUPERINTENDENCY—3RD DIVISION,  
HIGHGATE, ONT., 14th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report, together with tabular statement, showing the progress made by the Indians of this Agency—the Moravians of the Thames—during the year ended the 30th of June last.

The population of this Band now numbers 273, a decrease of two since my last report.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to report that the Indians on this reserve have, as usual, reaped a very good harvest—wheat, oats, corn and potatoes yielded well. The crop of peas is the largest ever raised on the reserve.

I might say that the Indians of this Band raise a large number of bushels of white beans, that are not enumerated in the tabular statement. This crop, in itself, has been worth a large amount of money to the Indians during the last two years.