

Germany devoted to the spiritual interests of the American Indians. A number of these books were sent large enough to supply the wants of the whole tribe. About one-third of the Indians of this Agency can make use of them.

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

WM. CHISHOLM,  
*Indian Agent.*

INDIAN DISTRICT, No. 11.

RIVER INHABITANTS,

INVERNESS Co., N.S., September, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—To the detailed information contained in the accompanying tabular statement I have but little to add. The transformation which Micmac life undergoes in the course of any one year is usually so slight—even where there is a progressive tendency—that its chroniclers cannot always have much that is new to record. But under existing circumstances, probably, we should be satisfied if we yearly find unmistakable indications of sure, steady progress, even if it be only gradual.

Any change I can observe since my last Report in the Indians under my supervision is decidedly for the better. By slow degrees they are becoming thrifty and provident. Some of them, indeed, seem at times to favor a return to the wild and nomadic life of their fathers, but I believe that judicious management (which means chiefly generous treatment) will preclude all danger of difficulty with them, and will bring them into line with the more enlightened and progressive of their race.

With the earnest desire and laudable endeavour to improve manifested by a numerous class (constituting a majority in my Agency) I am highly pleased. In many respects I have to speak favorably of them all; for their sobriety, honesty, and freedom from crimes which now and then tarnish the character of some of their white neighbors, they deserve much credit. Taken all in all they are an admirably moral people. This I attribute entirely to the salutary efforts of those who at various times labored to instil into their minds—minds impressible as the moss of their native forests—due respect for the law of the land, and reverence for the precepts of the religion they profess.

The Indian school at Whycocomah is still in charge of Mr. McEachen, who for some time taught very successfully in the public schools of this county. Two causes are constantly operating against the efficiency of the school—the irregular attendance of most of the pupils, and the fact that all the pupils leave school altogether at an early age. On the whole, however, the school is doing good work and deserves encouragement.

Owing to the prevalence of measles at Whycocomah last winter, several families of the band residing there left for other parts, but they are likely soon to return.

In conclusion, I beg leave to express the belief that the greater the liberality judiciously dispensed to the Micmacs, the sooner will they become self-supporting, independent, useful citizens.

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

D. McISAAC,  
*Indian Agent.*