

is difficult to obtain reliable information from the Indians. This, however, is not owing to an indisposition on their part to impart the information, but to their inability to do so as well. One would imagine that the chief and captains of a small band, like that of the Micmacs in this district, would be familiar with the affairs of the band, but one has only to seek the information necessary for a complete report to know how utterly unreliable it is when received. Were it not for the encouragement given by Government in the shape of farming implements and fertilizers, farming would be impossible to them, and would soon be abandoned for the more congenial occupations of coopering, basket making, and bead work, and even with the aid they receive, I fear it will be long before the Indians of Antigonish can be considered an agricultural people.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN J. CHISHOLM,

Indian Agent, District No. 9.

RED ISLAND, N. S., 2nd September, 1884.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1884.

To the information therein contained I have but little to add.

The crops on the Indian reserve, thus far, promise well, and should the weather continue favorable, will yield a fair average.

The Indians of my agency make slow but evident progress in cultivating their lands.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN McDOUGALL,

Indian Agent, District No. 10.

RIVER INHABITANTS, INVERNESS Co., N. S., August, 1884.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa,

SIR,—I have very little to add by way of supplement to the tabular statement I have the honor to transmit to you. During the year ended 30th June, last, there were 9 births and 5 deaths. I am happy to state that the condition of the Indians throughout my agency has very materially improved during the last year. By slow degrees, some of them are becoming more thrifty and provident.

A few of them had sufficient potatoe seed for their own use, and some to spare, last May. As a rule, the Indians of this band are very industrious. In winter and summer the majority of the men are generally employed in coopering, making wash tubs, butter tubs, churns, &c., &c., and the women in making baskets and beaded moccasins, and porcupine quill fancy boxes. These wares they dispose of for the necessaries of life principally in the Village of Whycocomah.

When not in real destitution, they seem always happy and contented, much more so than other people could be under similar circumstances. Potatoes, for which the soil on the Whycocomah Reserve is well adapted, are their principle article of food.

The Indians of my agency are a law abiding people, and afford an example it would be well for some of their white civilized neighbors to imitate.