
REPORT OF THE REV. D. DURONQUET ON THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
AT WIKWEMIKONG, MANITOULIN ISLAND.

WIKWEMIKONG, 3rd October, 1882.

Sir,—As by your request I beg to submit a compendious report on the Industrial School at Wikwemikong.

The number of the boarders in the two houses, has been near the same as last year, some having left, others applied for admission. The average has been about sixty, exclusive of the small number of white children, most of them orphans.

The health of the pupils has been generally good, though the ladies under whose care the female branch of the institution is placed, had in spite of all that motherly care could do, to lament the death of one of their children who died after a short illness.

The large addition connecting the day school house and female boarders house, has proved most convenient. Their large rooms supplied a want long felt; they are used for various community works and exercises.

The whole management of the female department has been in the hands of Miss Lucy Haesly and her assistant, who have applied themselves to the multifarious task with their wonted devotedness; everywhere in the house and in the field, leading by their example to habits of diligent industry, the pupils cheerfully rivaling in the work.

In the other branch of our Industrial School, considerable improvements can be noted.

As anticipated in the report for the year ending 30th September, 1881, the work in which our Indian plasterers had been engaged a great part of the summer and fall, had to be stopped at the opening of winter, but a great deal had been done already for the accommodation of the pupils, a large and well ventilated dormitory had to be fitted up, furnished with iron beds, a large stove, &c. Our boys had occupied the new room before the end of November.

The work resumed by the same plasterers had been completed during last summer; the new rooms will be appropriated to the various requirements of the Institution.

Another improvement has been a good ice cellar, with an upper story where arrangements are made for the management of milk and other provisions.

Shops for the most useful trades have been fully equipped. The larger boys had to make their choice. Ten are now apprentices in the various trades under competent tradesmen. All show proficiency, one above all, who after a year has very near attained perfection as a boot-maker.

For the maintenance of the Institution, besides the Government grant, we have been helped very materially by friends and by the devotedness of all engaged in the work. To all we acknowledge a large debt of gratitude and pray that they may be rewarded by the blessings of the same kind Providence of whom they have been the willing instruments.

The day schools on the Island have been attended by their respective teachers as regularly as the habits of the Indians allowed.

On account of personal or local circumstances two teachers of the schools on the main land, at Mississaga and Serpent River, having resigned and another one having been disabled by a fall from his horse, these schools have been closed during the summer.

We hope that competent teachers will soon be found for the reopening of the schools at the three places.

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

D. DURONQUET.

The Superintendent of Indian Affairs,
Manitowaning.