

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY—3RD DIVISION,
SAULT STE-MARIE, 24th August, 1889.

The Honorable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to you my report for the year ended 30th June 1889, of the Indian bands under my charge, together with tabular statement and census.

The bands are the Garden River, under Chief Augustin, the Batchewana, under Chief Nubenagooching, and the Michipicotin and Big Head Indians, under Chiefs Sansonhaguard and Gros Jambette. I have very little to add to former reports.

Garden River Band.

The greater part of this band reside on their own reserve at Garden River, and mostly earn their living in the summer by boating and berry picking and in the winter by working in lumber camps, and taking out cordwood, and saw logs and in sugar making. During the past winter there was plenty of employment for those willing to work, a large quantity of saw logs were taken out by them and good wages obtained; they also took out several hundred cords of spruce wood, for which they got good prices. The crops were hardly so good as in former years, the season having been late. A new industry is, I understand, to be opened at the Marble Mountain this year, in the shape of cement works. This will give, employment to a good many of the Indians able to work at it.

The schools have been better attended and more progress has been made than heretofore. The teachers still complain that the parents will not insist on sending their children regularly, and also of the time taken up during the sugar making and the berry season, but on the whole the attendance is better than formerly.

A great deal of trouble was caused last summer and winter by the sale of liquor by men occupying two boats anchored on the American side, on the shore opposite the reserve. I tried to have it stopped by the American authorities, but failed for want of proof. This spring the Americans themselves made out a case against them and the boats have disappeared. During the fall and winter traffic was carried on by a whiskey peddler of the name of Lemieux, and for months he managed, in spite of summonses to evade capture, however, he was at last arrested under a warrant and convicted in four cases, fined four hundred and fifty dollars and costs, and was sentenced to the Central Prison for twelve months.

There was considerable sickness during the year, but nothing of a serious nature.

Batchewana Band.

The greater part of this band reside on the Garden River Reserve, part at Goulais Bay, where they have another reserve, and about thirteen families at Agawa River, Lake Superior. Those on the Garden River Reserve farm in a small way, go boating and berry picking in the summer and work for the Garden River Band and in the lumber camps during the winter. The women have about fourteen sewing machines, which they work, and they make barkwork and mats, by which they manage to live. They have a school on the reserve, which is very well attended. It is under the management of the Revd. Thos. Ouellette, S. J. (Catholic), and the children I am informed are getting on well. Those of the members of this band who live at Goulais Bay have little farms of their own (patented), which they cultivate in a small way and live principally by fishing and hunting. One poor old woman was burned to death in her wigwam last Christmas Day, while all the rest of the Indians were at church. This portion of the band are very healthy; they have a Roman Catholic Church, but no school. The third portion of the band live at Agawa River and get their living by fishing and hunting. The latter was very poor last winter. The catch of fur was only one-quarter of former