

last fall for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons guilty of this grave offence, although failing to bring them to justice, has had, at least, the good effect of preventing, thus far, a repetition of such malicious conduct.

These and similar difficulties and persecutions are, however, likely to continue to exist so long as the land dispute, between the Indians and the Seminary, remains unsettled. The Indians are now becoming thoroughly roused to a sense of the great injustice that is being done them, and are resolved to defend themselves and their rights more rigidly in the future. It is well that they are so peaceably inclined and not possessed of a vindictive spirit, as otherwise retaliation, and probably bloodshed would be the result in almost every instance.

The arson case, as you are without doubt aware, is still before the law courts, and what the issue will be it is difficult to foresee. One of the accused, however, was tried and promptly acquitted before Justice Bourgeois at Aylmer in July last; and their counsel, feeling that such a positive result should be taken as a final settlement of the whole case, made application for the discharge of all the prisoners. This the prosecution strenuously opposed, and the consequence is that the untried ones are again held to appear at the same place in January next. It is to be hoped that this unprecedented case will soon be brought to a termination, and save the Indians further trouble and expense.

Referring to educational matters some twenty-five families, residing about four miles from this village, finding it impossible to send their children to the village school, have decided upon erecting a school house in their own neighborhood, where the wants of over forty children, of school age, will be met in the way of learning. Operations have already been commenced, and it is expected that the building will be completed and ready for occupation in a few weeks. It is a commodious one, and will be useful for other purposes as well.

Regarding the moral and intellectual *status* of the band there is nothing special to note, except that there is room for improvement.

Their sanitary condition is about the same as reported last year, and with the exception of a visit from the measles last winter, which proved fatal in a few cases, there were no epidemics among them during the year.

The use of intoxicants is of rare occurrence among them, and the Indians are quietly disposed, and on the whole well behaved.

The moneys and blankets transmitted by the Department during the year, for the relief of the aged and infirm members of the band, were disbursed as judiciously as possible, as was also the seed supplied last spring, all of which were much appreciated by those who received them. There is a good deal of difficulty attending distributions of this kind, from the fact that the entire band consider themselves justly entitled to a share therein. The \$912 granted by the Department, last winter, towards the purchase of lumber and nails to repair their houses, was expended to the best possible advantage in procuring the same; also the \$100 grant for seed.

The decrease of 25 in the population of the band, since last year, is owing to the recent removal of some three or four families to other parts for the winter season.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MCGIRR,

*Indian Agent.*