

Increased attention is paid to farming by many, as will be seen by reference to the tabular statement, which shows a very considerable excess over the previous year in both stock and produce.

I assisted several last winter with supplies, to help them to earn something out of firewood—dead hemlock; but it turned out so inferior that it is yet unmarketed.

The school continues to prosper under Mr. Mayes, who has formally qualified himself by obtaining a certificate from the School Board. During the year a survey was made by F. Hamney, Esq., of a part of Georgina Island—two concessions—the first official survey—and it is remarkable that this official survey agrees very exactly with the survey made by the band themselves some years ago. With a rare exception, this survey places the holders in a much more satisfactory condition, especially so when the location tickets applied for shall have been issued. The Mission House occupied by the teacher has also been improved since my last report, by the completion of an upper storey, which makes it more comfortable and which was much needed.

Arrangements were made with Messrs. Hamilton & Richardson stock men, for the pasture, during the season, of fifty head of cattle, on that part of Georgina Island known as the burnt district, as an experiment. It was stated afterwards by those gentlemen that the pasture was not sufficient as the season advanced for the stock put on, and about one-third was taken off; the remainder seem to be doing tolerably well.

The habits and conduct of the band are to me generally satisfactory and very greatly improved. There are two or three exceptions, but even this proportion bears a favorable comparison with other communities.

Many of the women are very industrious. Several having sewing machines do considerable work for the white people as well as for their own people. Others go out as servants to the white people, thus learning habits which will be of advantage to them in the future. Many of my friends come from distant parts of the country to visit the island, and always make some purchases of fancy work to carry home with them, and on many occasions have sent the articles purchased to England.

The band is busy harvesting this month, and the crops, I consider, are superior to those on the mainland, not being injured by rust to any serious extent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. STEVENSON,
Indian Agent.

CAPE CROKER AGENCY.

No report from Agent Jermyn, he having been appointed about the end of the fiscal year.

SAUGEEN AGENCY,
SAUGEEN RESERVE, 5th September, 1885.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith my report and tabular statement in regard to the Chippewas of the Saugeen band of Indians for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

I can add but little by way of report, as my appointment to the agency took place on the 8th of June last, only 22 days before the end of the fiscal year, and therefore my experience with respect to their habits and industry is limited, not enabling me to give so full and complete a report, as would be desirable.

This band numbers 347, being a decrease of 15 during the year.