

Department of Indian Affairs.

BÉCANCOUR, P.Q., 17th August, 1892.

The Honourable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last.

The Indians of this band have made very little progress; although very improvident, they have suffered less this year than heretofore, owing to the fact that the crops were better and the department came to the relief of those who were most in need. Only one member of this band went out hunting.

There is not much cultivation done by the Indians of Bécancour; some hire themselves as guides to sportsmen who go fishing in the lakes of the Upper St. Maurice, but their principal occupation is the manufacture of baskets from which they derive considerable profit.

The Indians of Bécancour are improving in sobriety, they make less use of intoxicants than formerly.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. DESILETS,
Indian Agent.

NORTH-EASTERN SUPERINTENDENCY,
CHATHAM HEAD, N.B., 14th October, 1892.

The Honourable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 30th June, 1892, also tabular statement of Indian affairs in connection with the band under my superintendency.

Eel River, Restigouche County.

I cannot report much improvement in this band. They do not take much interest in farming, the land where they live is poor and sandy, and as a matter of course their principal means of support is fishing, although the local regulations deter them from privileges which they had in former days.

Papineau Reserve, Gloucester County.

A number of the Indians of this reserve have moved nearer the town, which has not improved them much. A few families still live on the reserve, and are very comfortable, they give some attention to farming, and are employed a great portion of the summer season as guides for sportsmen, the river being much frequented by parties seeking pleasure by the rod and gun. They hunt in winter, and on the whole make a good living.

Red Bank, Northumberland County.

The advantages on this reserve for making a good living are favourable. It is the junction of the Little South-west and the Main North-west Rivers, both being lumbered on extensively. It is thickly settled close by with white people, and any of the Indians that exert themselves can be comfortable. There is a nice church on the reserve, and a resident priest, and a short distance from the reserve there is a saw and grist mill.