

vated, has been neglected; bushes have grown up upon it, and it is fast relapsing into a state of wilderness.

Fronting on the Saint John, and the left bank of the Tobique, there is a very fine piece of alluvial land, called the Tobique Flat, on which a considerable quantity of hay is cut annually. The grass this year has been sold for thirty Pounds, to a person in the neighbourhood, who agreed to pay in Cash, but subsequently told the Indians that money was not to be had, and they must take provisions. This, it appeared, was a customary mode of dealing with the Indians; first to bargain with them for Cash, at a very inadequate price, and then taking advantage of their necessities, to palm off inferior articles of provision, at an exorbitant rate, in payment. I endeavoured to prevent it in this instance, by sending a written notice to the purchaser, that he must pay in Cash, according to his agreement, and also giving the Captain at Tobique, an order in writing, not to deliver any portion of the grass or hay, until he received payment in money for which he would hereafter account.

They have no Chapel here, but are exceedingly anxious to get one up, for which purpose they have collected nearly sufficient scantling, with about two thousand feet of boards, and 23 thousand shingles. The Treasurer has Ten Pounds in hand, collected by subscription for the Chapel. The Rev. Antoine Gosselin comes to this place twice in each year, for a short time, from Madawaska. He informed me subsequently that he would visit the Tobique much oftener, and remain longer, if there were a place built for Public Worship.

There has never been a School here, or the slightest attempt made to educate the rising generation; they are growing up, much as they might be supposed to do, if there were no civilized people in this Province.

In passing up the River, I found the front of the Indian Reserve, for about three miles above the Tobique Rock, cleared and cultivated by squatters, who have built houses and barns, and appear to make themselves quite at ease. They pay no rent, acknowledge no title, and from long impunity, have become very insolent and overbearing. Besides occupying the land, they openly plunder the forest in the vicinity, of the most valuable Timber, and dispose of it, in the face of the Indians, whom they will scarcely allow to set foot upon the land, and invariably hunt off like wild beasts, if they attempt to look after or prevent the trespasses which are constantly committed.

As soon as the purpose for which I came was known, they drew themselves up in hostile array, and would not communicate. One of the Squatters, in answer to an enquiry, told me, that he had lived on the land twenty years; that he had been several times sued, sometimes taken to Fredericton and sometimes to Woodstock, but beyond that, nothing had ever come of the suits; and, he supposed, could not. That he would never take a lease of the land, or pay rent, and if driven off, he would burn the buildings and devastate the land.

He told me that he came on the land in May, 1810; this year he has put up a house, and got in a crop. He has taken possession of a clay-bank, for the purpose of commencing the manufacture of brick, and also of a Mill Privilege, intending to set up a Mill forthwith. I gave him a notice to desist and quit the Property, when he admitted that he came there without any authority, merely because he saw many others do so with impunity, and he thought he also might as well have some benefit from the Indian Land.

While ranging the front of the Reserve, I discovered a quantity of Scantling, (in all twenty one pieces,) cut and hauled to the bank of the Saint John, ready to be taken away. This I seized, and directed the Indians to remove to the Village for security. I then went on to seize some Birch Timber, and while absent, the Indians proceeded to get away the Scantling. The trespasser who had cut it, came with a party of men and attempted a rescue. I returned immediately with the party of Indians who accompanied me, when the other party withdrew, and the Scantling was brought off and deposited at the Village.

Mr. — admitted to me that he had cut the Scantling without leave; that a Crown Officer had seized it, but told him that he might take it away on settling with the Indians, which he had not done. Much angry feeling was displayed by Mr. — and his party on this occasion, and in mere wantonness, they destroyed the canoe of a poor Indian who lauded at a Store on the opposite side of the River to purchase goods.

It was stated to me broadly by Mr. — that it had so long been the custom for every person to cut as they pleased on Indian Land, that they considered it right and lawful to do so, and if any objection were made (that is, if detected in the act or before the removal of the Timber,) the payment of Stumpage made all right.

I learned at the Tobique that a number of persons had cut Timber on the Reserve during the past winter, and that Mr. — had been sent up to seize it, with instructions to give it up to the several parties on their satisfying the Indians. Under this arrangement the Indians received the trifling sum of eight pounds four shillings and six pence, chiefly paid in provisions at enormous prices. — cut a quantity of Birch Timber, which was seized; he then promised to pay the Indians at the rate of half-a-dollar for each tree, but succeeded in getting it away before payment, and now refuses to pay, as do others under like circumstances.

I found seven pieces of large Birch Timber just hauled out, which I seized, and I desired him to let it remain there until further

orders; he promised that it should not be removed. On my return from Madawaska, I found that it had been carried off.

From all these circumstances, His Excellency will at once perceive the impropriety of allowing Timber willfully cut on the Indian Reserve, to be given up, upon any terms. The only mode of stopping these constant trespasses is to confiscate the Timber in all cases, and when it is found that this course is adopted and rigidly adhered to, the wholesale plunder now going on, will be brought to an end, and the morals of the neighbourhood greatly improved.

The Timber seized from — was placed by the Indians with the scantling intended for their Chapel, and they beg to be allowed to use it in that building.

The Indians having stated to me that the Mill erected on the Tobique, at the mouth of the Little Pokioik, was within the rear line of their land. I went up to the line, and found the Mills half-a-mile within it, on the Reserve. On my return to Fredericton, I made a careful examination of the Plans in the Crown Lands' Office, and found that half the grant (including a valuable Mill Privilege) is actually part of the Indian Land.

Within the last few years, a grant has passed of 550 acres of land to the Parish Church for a Glebe. By the grant-plan, the land appears to be bounded on the one side by the lower line of the Reserve, and on the other by a lot granted to Henry Merritt. On examination of the land, I found that the lower line of the Reserve, and the line of Merritt's lot, were one and the same line, and consequently no vacancy between. On enquiry at the Crown Lands' Office, I found that the mistake had arisen from a Plan in that Office, exhibiting a vacancy, and that such Plan was a *Compilation* made by the late Surveyor General Sproule.

A grant having passed the Great Seal, for land which does not exist, the parties interested have seized upon the lower end of the Reserve, and claim to occupy it under their grant. As this may lead to serious difficulty, the matter should be enquired into and adjusted speedily, as an act of justice to all parties.

I was requested to ascertain the feelings of the Indians, with respect to a lease of the Mill Privilege at the foot of the Tobique Narrows. These Narrows commence about half-a-mile from the mouth of the Tobique; they are about three fourths of a mile in length, the River for that distance being hemmed in between lofty and nearly perpendicular cliffs of very good roofing Slate. In times of flood, these Narrows present a serious obstruction to the navigation of the River, a great volume of water being forced with much violence through a crooked and confined passage.

Mr. — proposes to erect a Dam at the foot of the Narrows, which will flow back the water for some distance, thus checking the violence of the Stream, and rendering it navigable with ease and safety at all times. He also offers to construct a Lock for the passage of boats, and keep open a fish-way, to allow the thousands of Salmon which annually frequent this, their favorite River, to pass up to the usual spawning ground.

I brought this matter before the Indians at Tobique, in full Council, and found their sole objection to the establishment of Saw Mills, at the Narrows, was this—that the Salmon Fishery, on which they now mainly depend for support during the summer season, would thereby, sooner or later, be altogether destroyed. The Indian method of taking the Salmon, is altogether by the Spear and torch, and it struck me that they prized much more highly the dash and excitement of the sport in taking the fish, than the profit arising from the sale of them. During my stay at the Tobique, the day was spent by the Indians in almost listless idleness; but so soon as night fell, the torch was lit, the Spear lifted, the canoe launched, and all became life, bustle and activity. The sport was pursued the whole night, and day-light exhibited heaps of glittering Salmon on the bank, and the Indians languidly creeping off, to sleep away another day of total idleness.

The destruction of the Salmon Fishery would perhaps induce the Indians to adopt more settled habits of industry, and pay more attention to the cultivation of the soil than they do at present. The greatest objection to the erection of Saw Mills in their vicinity appears to me to be, the demoralization of both sexes from their intercourse with the loose characters too often found about such establishments, particularly in a remote district.

If a lease of the Mill Privilege at the Narrows is granted to Mr. —, I beg to suggest the following terms:—

The payment of a fair and reasonable rent, and (on public grounds) an obligation to improve and facilitate the navigation of the River, and to maintain a sufficient Fishway. A small portion of land only, should be leased with the Mill Privilege, and no right or title whatever given to the quarries of roofing Slate, which I conceive to be valuable, and should therefore be expressly excepted. The use of nets below the Dam, a very common and destructive practice, should be strictly prohibited, under penalties.

From the Tobique I proceeded to Madawaska, and visited the Indian Settlement at the mouth of the Madawaska River, where I found only twenty seven souls.

These Indians occupy an exceedingly beautiful and very fertile piece of ground, and their crop appeared in a promising state. They cultivate the land upon shares with one of their French neighbours; each party finds half the seed; the Frenchman sows, reaps and delivers them half the crop, as also half the grass from their meadow, which he also cuts and makes into hay. They sowed this year ninety bushels of Wheat and Oats, and thirty bushels of Potatoes, besides Peas, Beans and Flax. They have also fifty