

The Mississaguas of Scugog, whose reserve is situated on the island of that name in the county of Ontario; number but forty-four souls. They devoted a portion of their funds to the purchase, last spring, of horses, waggons, ploughs, and other implements; and they have since been giving much more attention to farming. During the past season they broke up eighty-two acres of new land, which, when added to the area previously cultivated, makes two hundred acres of land under cultivation, from which one thousand and fifty bushels of grain and roots were produced and four tons of hay cut. These Indians derive a large portion of their subsistence from the waters of Lake Scugog, which afford them an unlimited supply of fish.

They are improving in their habits of temperance; intoxicants being now used by very few of them.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte are making fair progress in farming. They number nine hundred and seventy-five souls, and have nine thousand two hundred acres under tillage; the produce from which amounted to thirty-nine thousand six hundred and seventy-one bushels of grain and roots, and two hundred and sixty-eight tons of hay. The quantity of new land broken this season was twenty-six acres.

There are four schools in operation on the reserve.

The fencing of the farms on this tract had fallen greatly into disrepair, and the band, in the early part of the year, resolved to re-fence their fields with metal fencing, known at the "Buckthorn steel ribbon fencing," and to pay for the same from the funds at their credit, on condition that one-half the cost shall be refunded by the individual members of the band whose lands are fenced out of their shares of interest upon the invested capital, or from the rent money received from lands leased for the benefit of such members. The Department considered it advisable to accede to the desire of the band, as there is no wood suitable for fencing on the reserve, and metal fencing is more durable, and cannot be burnt for fuel—a great portion of the wooden fences having been so used in the past. Your Excellency, by an Order in Council, was pleased to sanction the expenditure, and the work is now being proceeded with.

In consequence of the increase of intemperance in this band, the Department resolved upon adopting strenuous measures to lessen the facilities with which intoxicating liquor could be obtained by the Indians. Dominion constables were sent to the locality, and several dealers in liquor were brought to trial; and subsequently the services of the village constable at Deseronto the point at which liquor was principally obtained, were enlisted, with the gratifying result that at the present time the spectacle of an Indian under the influence of liquor in the locality is as unusual as it was formerly customary.

The Chippewas of Georgina and Snake Islands, in Lake Simcoe, whose reserve comprises these islands, are giving more attention to stock raising and farming, and every year shows marked progress in both enterprises. The population of the band is one hundred and thirty-four, and they have three hundred and ten acres under cultivation whereof ten acres were newly broken

this year. The quantity of produce raised by them amounted to three thousand four hundred and thirty bushels of grain and roots, and they cut also twenty-two tons of hay.

A portion of the land on Georgina Island has been subdivided by survey into farm lots, with a view to location tickets being issued to the individual occupants of the same. There is a school on operation on the island.

The Chippewa band, whose reserve is situated in the Township of Rama, in the County of Ontario, appear to be advancing in civilization. They erected, during the year, a commodious building, two stories in height, and 24 feet broad by 42 feet long, to serve for school purposes and for holding public meetings. They have also engaged in the planting of fruit trees. The population of this band is two hundred and forty. They have seven hundred and seventy-nine acres under tillage, thirteen acres of which were freshly broken this year. The products of the soil amounted to four thousand one hundred and ninety-four bushels, and they cut sixty-six tons of hay. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The Chippewas of Saugeen, whose reserve is situated near Southampton, in the County of Bruce, number three hundred and forty-seven souls. They appear to be making progress in farming. They are also paying more attention to the roads and ditches on the reserve. The prohibitory liquor law, which has been adopted by the County of Bruce, has acted most beneficially for these Indians, as it has also for other bands resident within districts where the same is in force.

These Indians have nine hundred acres under cultivation, from which they raised five thousand five hundred and fifty bushels of produce, and cut one hundred and twenty-eight tons of hay. There are three schools in operation on this reserve, which are favorably reported of.

I regret to state that no report has been received from the agent to the Chippewa band of Cape Crocker, in the County of Bruce, although he was instructed to forward a report. It may be stated, however, that matters generally upon the reserve are in a satisfactory condition.

There are three schools in operation, which are successfully conducted.

The Chippewas on Christian Islands, in the Georgian Bay, are in comfortable circumstances. They are a well-conducted and industrious community. There is a school in operation on the main island on the group. These Indians number three hundred and eighteen. They have four hundred and fifty-one acres under tillage, of which thirty-four acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them was two thousand three hundred and eighteen bushels, and they cut thirty-seven tons of hay.

The Indians of Manitoulin Island, in no wise disheartened by the unsuccessful crops of the previous season, as referred to in my report of last year, planted their lands with grain and roots, and their industry has been rewarded by ample returns of both products. The hay was, however, light. Their fisheries were successful and remunerative.

The bands of the north shore of Lake Huron were not so successful in providing for their

wants. Those Indians depend mainly upon the chase for the subsistence; and their last season's hunt, owing to the unusual depth of snow, was not successful as usual.

The destruction by fire of the two industrial school buildings at Wikwemikong, on Manitoulin Island, is to be deplored. These institutions were in active operation at the time the fire occurred, which was in the depth of winter; and, as a matter of course, operations had to be, to a large extent, suspended. Happily, however, the Principles of the institutions were able to procure accommodation for a considerable number of pupils, by hiring buildings, and thus the teaching of the children was not wholly stopped—though, necessarily, many of the pupils could not be accommodated, owing to the limited house room at the disposal of the Principals, and they were returned to their parents. Parliament having granted \$4,000 towards the reconstruction of the buildings, that work has been proceeded with, and the buildings for the girl's department is approaching completion, and will probably be occupied at an early date. That for the boys will be proceeded with in the spring. The interruption in the industrial training of the children was rendered less serious owing to the zealous efforts of those in charge of the institutions, and their assistants, although, through lack of sufficient accommodation, their endeavors to continue their commendable work of instruction were, of course, greatly retarded. An interesting report by the Rev. M. DuRonquet, the Principal of the institution, will be found among the appendices to this report.

There are six day schools in operation on Manitoulin Island, and five on the mainland. The Indians of Manitoulin Island keep the roads running through their Reserves in good order. This is especially the case on the Wikwemikong reserve. The Indian population of the superintendency is three thousand three hundred and forty-three. They have three thousand one hundred acres under cultivation. Their crops amounted, in the aggregate, to forty-two thousand and sixty-nine bushels of produce and one thousand two hundred and ninety tons of hay. The fish captured by them were valued at \$18,450, and the furs at \$5,205.50; while the revenue derived from other industries is estimated to have amounted to \$5,850.

The Indians of the Parry Sound and Muskoka districts are represented as being in a prosperous condition. The Parry Island Band have shown much energy in clearing lands for farming purposes; and I am happy to be able to state that indulgence in intoxicants is now a thing of rare occurrence with these Indians. Increased interest is also taken by them in school matters.

The bands at Shawanaga and Henvey Inlet preserve their normal condition. The partial failure of their hunt last winter occasioned some distress in the latter band. Each of these bands has a school in operation on its reserve.

The band on the Lake Nippissing reserve appear to have had a most successful season. The proximity of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the reserve has, however, not been unattended with disadvantages to these Indians, bringing, as it did, in its train, unprincipled parties, who were only too ready to barter spirituous liquors with them for their furs and other property.