

Department of Indian Affairs.

The sanitary condition of the band is at present excellent. I do not know of one case of sickness, due, I think, to their improved condition and less camping out when trapping and fishing.

The school is, as it has been for the last four years, taught by the Rev. John Lawrence; there are forty-four pupils on the school register and the daily average attendance for the past school year was twenty-nine. I think that the scholars are doing fairly well. Three of the pupils were at Cobourg recently writing on the entrance examinations for the high schools, but I have not yet heard the result.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN THACKRAY,

Indian Agent.

RICE AND MUD LAKE AGENCY,

GORE'S LANDING, ONT., 26th August, 1892.

The Honourable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report and tabular statement showing the state of the Indians under my charge for the year ended 30th June, 1892.

Rice Lake Reserve.

The Indians have given still more attention to farming, and the grain crop is the largest that has ever been grown on this reserve by Indians.

Those who have not given their attention to farming have made a very good living by gathering and selling the wild rice that grows in Rice Lake, by sugar-making, trapping, shooting, fishing, basket-making and working as labourers.

There has been no serious illness; in fact, very little sickness of any kind.

The year has passed away very quietly and pleasantly, and apparently very quickly.

The school has been taught by Miss Millard, who has given a great deal of attention to the children, and they have, through her kindness and attention, made considerable progress.

Mud Lake Reserve.

The Indians generally have enjoyed good health, which is no doubt largely due to the improved condition of things in and around their houses; they are also prospering in material things. Nearly all are now possessed of good board canoes in place of their former heavy log "dug outs." Five got new canoes ranging in value from \$16 to \$25; and three got new guns ranging from \$13 to \$35; two have built new houses, while several others have reshingled and otherwise improved their houses, thus adding greatly to the appearance of the place and to their own comfort.

They are now turning their attention much more to farming. Every available spot was under crop of some kind this year and yielded a good return for their labour, and those who have given a good portion of their time to agriculture will be in a fairly good position to put through the winter.

The young men are mostly good workers and find ready employment at good wages among the drives and lumber camps and among the farmers.

The women as a rule are very industrious, making baskets and fancy work for which they find a ready sale.