

The band living at Half-way Lake are developing quite a taste for agriculture. This year they planted some forty bushels of potatoes, and a considerable quantity of peas, beans, and other garden vegetables, all of which were well looked after and presented a most creditable appearance at the time of my inspection in August. Their progress in the cultivation of their land is, however, very much restricted and retarded by the want of oxen and farming utensils. As it is they depend upon the neighboring farmers to do their ploughing and cannot get in their seed till late in the season, the farmers being unwilling to work for them before they are through with their own planting.

The young men of this band are honest and industrious, and find ready employment among the farmers and lumbermen.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. T. CLARKE,
Indian Agent.

DISTRICT No. 9,
POMQUET CHAPEL,
ANTIGONISH, N.S., 29th July, 1882.

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

SIR,—I herewith enclose the tabular statement in connection with the Indian affairs of this Agency.

To give a true and accurate account of their status and condition is in many cases very difficult, if not impossible. For instance, the quantity of potatoes raised—the principal seed they put in the ground—cannot be well ascertained owing to the fact that they use a large portion of their potatoes in autumn before the digging season. Again, it is impossible to form any accurate estimate of the proceeds of their cooping and basket work, as they barter these away in most cases in small lots for the necessaries of life during the course of the year. Thus the agent is always at a loss how to value the proceeds of those works, he can only make an approximate guess of their value.

Our Indians here are becoming more inclined to hire themselves out to white people than they have hitherto been. This summer some young fellows among them are engaged at lobster factories, and some are employed at saw mills and rafting lumber, where it is said they become very efficient workmen. They seem more disposed to work at such employments than to work their own lands, which in time would be much more profitable for them.

Owing to their migratory habits, the sparseness of families on each reserve, and the long distances some of the reserves are apart from each other, it is found impracticable for the present at least to establish among them a school of their own. Some few attend other schools where they make satisfactory progress.

The Micmac Indians have a peculiar literature of their own. It consists of hieroglyphics or characters much resembling those of the Chinese and are said to be four or five hundred in number. One of these may express the ideas of the noun, the adjective qualifying it and the verb. This important mode of conveying their ideas, it is said was found among them at the arrival of the first whites. One of their first missionary priests drew up their book of prayer, a compendium of the Christian doctrine and their church music in these characters. Some twenty-five years ago these manuscripts were collected together and set to type by an association in