

The Indians located on the reserves on Rivière la Seine have erected several new houses and have well cultivated fields, but owing to the backwardness of the season the crops were sown late.

The Indians whose reserve is situated at Lac La Croix having expressed their willingness to take over the cattle due them under treaty stipulations, they were purchased for them. They had erected a good stable for the animals.

The Indian population at the nine points above enumerated, the reserves in which are embraced in the Coutcheeching Agency, amounts to 895 souls, being 29 in excess of the population of 1887.

The Indians of the Lake of the Woods Reserves, which are included in the Assabaskasing Agency, are represented by their Agent to be well conducted and contented.

The sanitary condition of the several bands in this agency was not very satisfactory during the past year; pulmonary affections and fever were prevalent.

Their crops were a partial failure in the season of 1887 owing to a continuance of drought during the summer. The hay on most of the reserves was destroyed by high water on the lakes and rivers, and by drought on the high ground.

As a result of the scarcity of hay there was much difficulty experienced in bringing their cattle through the winter, and several of their animals perished.

Notwithstanding the failure of the wild rice crop upon which these Indians mainly depend for their winter's supply of farinaceous food, and their short crops of cultivated grain and vegetables they managed to supply themselves with food. Some of them subsisted on venison and other game and fish, and others worked in the woods at cutting timber for timber merchants, and cordwood for the owners of steam vessels.

No very minute particulars are given by the Agent as to the condition of matters on the reserves in the district mentioned in the Report of my predecessor for 1887.

He states, however, that when he visited the plantations of the several bands at the Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake he found them well attended to.

The Indians of this agency, like the other Indians whose reserves lie within the territory covered by Treaty No. 3, rely on the sale of the skins of fur-bearing animals captured by them for a revenue, and on game, fish, wild rice and to some extent on the crops raised on the reserves for their supply of food.

They number 1,033 souls, being an increase of 13 over the population in 1887.

The late Agent for these Indians, Mr. George McPherson, being over 70 years of age, was superannuated last year. He was a faithful and efficient officer, esteemed alike by the Indians and by the Department which employed him.

The several bands of Indians in the Clandeboye Agency appear to have experienced no difficulty in supporting themselves during the past year.