

Department of Indian Affairs.

PART I

OF THE

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

INDIAN OFFICE,

BRANTFORD, ONT., 9th September, 1892.

The Honourable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I beg to submit my annual report in duplicate, and tabular statement on the Six Nations of the Grand River, for the year ended 30th June, 1892.

The crops for the past year were generally good; the Indians are taking more interest in agriculture and at present there are very few who do not cultivate their land, while many are increasing the acreage cultivated. Corn, wheat, oats and potatoes are chiefly raised; the hay crop was very poor, but stock-raising is increasing. The Indians compete successfully with their white neighbours at the fairs and are rapidly advancing; they are now realizing that their success and prosperity depend on themselves and they are competing in everything they possibly can with surrounding farmers.

Large contracts have been awarded to members of the Six Nations by neighbouring whites and the manner in which they were executed gave general satisfaction. Those not engaged in farming, or in business of other descriptions, look for employment off the reserve; during the berry and hop-picking season some hundreds are taken as assistants by the whites, also during harvest time, so that it is often difficult to get help on the reserve.

Two companies of volunteers from the reserve are attached to the 37th Battalion of Haldimand. The Six Nations fall fair occupied three days, and was largely attended each day; the prizes offered were equal to those given at any township fair and the exhibition was certainly successful. Nine threshing machines are owned on the reserve and all are kept very busy during the season.

Two brass bands, belonging to the reserve, compete in band tournaments very successfully and have frequent engagements in cities and large towns.

Ten schools are under the control of the Six Nations School Board and one is under the control of the chiefs. A new frame school-house was erected last year by the Board; the attendance at all the schools was better than that of the previous year and the educational results were satisfactory.

Eleven church services are held every Sunday and all are well attended; about seven hundred and eighty-three members of the band who call themselves Pagans, hold their old custom services regularly.

The health of the Indians has been fairly good as a community, the only epidemic of importance was the "grippe," which prevailed during the latter months of last winter. Inflammation of the lungs was very prevalent and among the old and very young, or those enfeebled by a prior attack or other disease, a large number of