

with either of those communities. I have often endeavored to persuade them to follow this course, and it would be well if the Department could use some means to accomplish the result.

CHIPPEWAS OF SAUGEEN.

There has been an increase of three in this band. It now numbers 353 persons.

A small minority of these Indians cultivate portions of the reserve and live very comfortably; but I regret to have to report that the great majority are shiftless, and depend more upon their money payments from the Department, for a living than on their own personal efforts.

There are two churches on the reserve, a Methodist and a Congregational; also two schools, one at French Bay, taught by a white girl appointed by the Department, who, I am given to understand, gives satisfaction; and the other is taught by a white girl employed by the Methodist Missionary Society. I cannot speak of the latter from personal knowledge (I do not even know her name), but when I recently visited the reserve (at which time the school was not open) I made enquiries regarding it, and was informed that the teacher was a young girl about fifteen or sixteen years of age, and totally unfit for the position, and I am sorry to say that the Indians appear to take little or no interest in the school.

CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH.

The census of this band shows a decrease of 8 persons. Sickness greatly prevailed among the children last winter; at the present time, however, they are very healthy.

These Indians have gardens and farms, which some cultivate very fairly, but the majority do not. I have used every effort in my power to induce them to turn their attention more to agriculture, but hitherto these efforts have only been partially successful. However, I do not despair, as the more intelligent are gradually being brought to realize the benefit to be derived from a systematic cultivation of the soil. And I am pleased to be able to report that they have materially increased their stock of cattle, and have some very superior cows.

There are three schools on the reserve, but two of them are at outlying small villages, with too sparse a population to keep up efficient schools. The central school, however, is more successful. The teachers are appointed by the Department and paid from the funds of the band.

There are two churches, a Methodist and a Roman Catholic.

CHIPPEWAS OF CHRISTIAN ISLAND.

This band numbers 310 persons, being an increase of 12, and of that number 88 persons reside on Manitoulin Island, and the statistics of whom are included in the report from the Northern Superintendency.

These are a remarkably well-behaved people, and generally of very steady habits.

They farm a good deal, fish, and, during the season of navigation, the young men are engaged in loading timber at the saw-mills on the north shore of Lake Huron, while the old people, women and children, look after the gardens and fishing.

There are two churches, a Roman Catholic and a Methodist.

There is one school teacher, who is an Indian, a son of the resident missionary, and appointed by the Methodist Missionary Society.

CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA.

This band numbers 254 persons, being an increase of one.

I have to speak favorably of these Indians. I think they are making sure progress in farming operations, to which they add hunting to a considerable extent, and the manufacture of baskets, fancy work and canoes.