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Jule
SHUBENACADIE INDIAN AGENCY

EXTRACT
75-51

AGENT'S REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1945.

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With regard to lumbering, we were very late in getting started, because of not being able to obtain a sawyer. Also the weather was very bad, raining practically every day until the middle of July and therefore we lost a great deal of time. Apart from this, it took the sawyer over a week to get the mill in shape for sawing. However after he got started, he put out of around 200,000 ft., through in about a month. I feel that this sawyer is by far the best we have had as yet, both as regards speed and the kind of lumber he turned out. After we finished the lumber cut we continued to saw shingles, sawing in the vicinity of 249,000. Of these we have plenty on hand, but the supply of 1 inch boards is already beginning to show a decline as we are using a great many of these. We have quite a lot of 2 inch lumber, for which there is no use and I am having this re-sawed. I've had the sawmill repaired with new bed pieces on the carriage and put in first class condition, although I am a little afraid of our boiler. The sawyer assures me that it should last for two or three years longer, but if government inspected, I believe it would be turned down or condemned, so have tried to avoid this.

I regret that I will not be able to get as many houses built as I had anticipated, due to the shortage of help, for a great many of the Indians have gone to the United States, picking potatoes and working in the lumber woods. Up to the present time, I have eighteen houses all completed and should have a few more put up before the winter sets in. We have been very fortunate in that we have been able to get the necessary outside material for these. I feel that the gravel for the cement foundations has cost us too much. However I have tried several places on the Reserve for suitable gravel, but there seems to be too much loam mixed with it to make good foundations. I do not intend taking all of the contract orders on doors, windows and window frames, also cement that we have on order, as I have no place to store same. There are quite a few new Indian families who have moved in already and I intend to fill all the vacant houses before the winter. I have made arrangements to finish three houses inside with tin-plate, which is the only such material available. These houses belong to three old people and they have to be made warmer for the coming colder weather. With the number of houses built on our new road, it now looks like Fifth Avenue.

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H.C. Rice.
Indian Agent.