

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1885.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
OTTAWA, 1st January, 1886.

## ONTARIO.

The Six Nation Indians, whose reserve is situated on the Grand River, in the counties of Brant and Haldimand, number three thousand two hundred and sixteen souls, being a decrease of fourteen since last year's report was compiled. This diminution in population is attributable to a prevalence among children of whooping cough and scarlet fever;—these epidemics having proved fatal in numerous cases. That this decrease in population is purely fortuitous and not to be regarded as likely to be continuous, is capable of being proven by adverting to the annual census taken for many years past of these Indians—when it will be found that they have increased in twenty years by five hundred in population.

That their natural energies are not on the decline can be shown by the fact that they added during the year five hundred and fifty acres to the land previously under cultivation in the reserve, making an aggregate of twenty-seven thousand three hundred and sixteen acres under tillage. Their harvest consisted of seventy-six thousand six hundred and fifty bushels of produce and one thousand eight hundred and eighty tons of hay.

The twelve schools on the reserve are making fair progress. The Public School Inspector reports, regarding them, that he notices a decided improvement since last year.

The small but progressive band of Mississaugas, who occupy a tract within the Six Nation reserve, and between whom and the Six Nations the most friendly and sympathetic feeling has always existed, having as stated in my report for the year 1882, adopted a code of rules and regulations for the better government of the community, which received Your Excellency's approval, and thus became law, appointed during the past year the officials necessary to carry out the provisions of the same. This band has thus a quasi municipal system for the management of roads, fences, ditches, pounds, schools, &c., &c. Its progress in agriculture is satisfactory, and an evidence of increased interest in educational matters is afforded by the fact that a more commodious building for school purposes is desired by the band, and one will be erected as matters of detail in connection with the plan of the building have been arranged.

The efficient head chief of this band, whose Indian name is Kak-ke-wa-quo-na-by, but who is better known under his English patronymic of Dr. Jones, has been largely instrumental in bringing about the satisfactory condition in which matters are now at present on the reserve. For although he has his professional practice (Dr. Jones holds a diploma from Queen's College, Kingston), he takes a deep and active interest in the welfare of his people.

The Chippewa and Pottawattamie bands, who occupy Walpele Island, in the River St. Clair, are annually improving in material wealth, and

their interest in the education of their children is also greater than was formerly the case. They have two day schools in operation on the reserve, and many of the children are afforded educational advantages of a higher character at the industrial institutions at Mount Elgin and Sault Ste. Marie.

The population of the two bands is seven hundred and ninety four. They have two thousand two hundred and ninety seven acres of land under cultivation, of which quantity one hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres were broken up for the first time this year. The quantity of produce raised by them was sixteen thousand two hundred and fifty-four bushels, and they also cut six hundred and eighty tons of hay. These and other resources possessed by them from hunting, fishing, and the sale of Indian handicraft, place the majority of these Indians in very comfortable circumstances.

I regret to have to record the disease of the much-respected missionary to the Chippewa band—the Rev. Mr. Jamieson—who, after devoting forty years of his life to their service, died in the month of June last.

The band known as the Chippewas of Chenaill Ecarte and St Clair, or Chippewas of Sarnia, which is divided into three sections, resident upon as many tracts of land, situated respectfully near Sarnia, at Kettle Point, and on the River aux Sables, raised crops far in excess of those of any previous year. The whole quantity of produce raised was eighteen thousand three hundred and seven bushels, and they likewise saved two hundred and twenty-three tons of hay. They added ninety one acres of land to the one thousand and fifteen acres previously cultivated by them. The population of the Chippewas on the three reserves is four hundred and eighty-three, and interspersed among them are some twenty-seven Pottawattamies. The Indians on the Sarnia reserve have shown a praiseworthy desire to improve the roads and to drain their lands, which will greatly augment their value.

The two bands of Chippewas and Munceys who occupy the reserve in the township of Caradoc, in the county of Middlesex, are making fair progress in agriculture. The former band, as stated in my report for the year 1882, allowed the Department to lease for the benefit of the individual claimants thereof all surplus unused lands on the reserve, the understanding being, that when the leases expire the land, which is to be brought into a good state of cultivation by the lessees, shall revert to and be worked by the Indian claimants; and in order to enable them to do so effectively, the Department retains out of the rents received from the lessees a certain portion, wherewith to purchase implements and stock for the Indians when they are ready to assume the working of the land.

The municipalities in the immediate vicinity of this reserve have adopted the act prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors, the facilities for these Indians to obtain the same will be greatly diminished. Hitherto, I regret to say, they have been able to procure intoxicants too easily. There are four schools in operation on this reserve.

In the same agency the Oneida band, who, as stated in previous reports, occupy a reserve

in the Township of Delaware, are included. These Indians are highly intelligent and their progress is quite marked. There are three schools on the reserve, which are conducted more efficiently and with a greater degree of success than was formerly the case. The remarks made in respect to the liquor traffic as affecting the Chippewas and Muncey Indians, on the reserve in Caradoc, are equally applicable to the Oneida band; and these Indians will be similarly benefited by the adoption of the prohibitory liquor law. The population of the three bands numbers one thousand three hundred and forty two. They have one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three acres under cultivation, of which one hundred and fifteen acres were newly broken this year. The quantity of produce raised by them amounted to fifty-four thousand six hundred and thirty-five bushels, and they also cut seven hundred and seventy tons of hay.

The small band of Indians known as the Moravians of the Thames, whose reserve is situated in the Township of Orford, in the County of Kent, appear to be making pleasing progress. They number only two hundred and seventy two souls, but they raised ten thousand four hundred and forty-three bushels of produce of various kinds, and cut one hundred and twenty-four tons of hay. They keep their roads in excellent order, and their schools—of which they have two—are in a satisfactory condition, both as regards efficiency and attendance—the latter being more regular and numerous than is the case with Indian schools generally. This has been secured by the adoption, voluntarily, of a system of fines imposed on parents for non-attendance of children.

The Mississaugas of Rice and Mud Lake, whose reserves are situated in the County of Northumberland, have, I regret to state, suffered much from sickness during the past year. Their sanitary condition is, however, now improved.

They subsist mainly on the products of the chase and fisheries. Their manufacture of Indian handiwork is likewise considerable. Many of them, moreover, compete in the labor market with their white brethren, and a few of them farm successfully.

There is a school on each reserve.

The two bands number two hundred and fifty souls. They have nine hundred and sixty-three acres under cultivation, whereof six acres were newly broken this year. From this land the yield was four thousand two hundred and sixty bushels of grain and roots and sixty-two tons of hay.

The Mississaugas of Alnwick, in the same county, do not appear to be making the progress one would desire to see. Their agent reports that intemperance has increased among them, and that he is unable to bring to trial the parties who supply them with the liquor, owing to the indisposition of the Indians to testify against them. The population of this band is two hundred and thirty-two, and they have two thousand three hundred and fifty-nine acres under cultivation, the yield from which was four thousand eight hundred and fifty bushels of grain and root crops and thirty tons of hay.

There is a school in operation on the reserve.