

A number of water courses were also opened up last fall, which have been a great benefit to the roads and land through which they pass.

The school house, reported in my last return as being in a very bad condition, has been repaired, and will be suitable for school purposes for some time to come. The attendance at the schools is not as satisfactory as could be wished, but it is better than it has been; those who attend regularly are making good progress, and some are very fair scholars.

On the whole, the Indians are making slow, but steady progress; not as fast as some might wish, but, I think, as fast as can be expected.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

JOHN BEATTIE,  
*Indian Agent.*

ONTARIO,  
PARRY SOUND SUPERINTENDENCY,  
PARRY SOUND, 17th September, 1881.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—Along with the tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1881, I have the honor to forward this my report upon Indian affairs in general in this Superintendency.

With regard to the crops, I find it impossible to get any reliable information as to the quantities secured, but on some of the reserves I saw in the fall that the crops were fair and in some cases good, but in others cattle had got at them and destroyed them, and at Lake Nipissing less ground than usual had been cultivated—this the band attributed to want of seed corn and potatoes, and as they had made no application for seed they did not participate in that given by the Department to those bands who applied; and this year again I saw there was a smaller quantity of land under crop.

On Parry Island, the crops, both corn and potatoes, were good.

At Shawanaga, the crops were fair, and in some instances good.

Henvey's Inlet—A good many had their crops destroyed by cattle, but in other cases they were fair.

Lake Nipissing—Less land was cultivated, but there was a promise of a fair return where seed had been planted.

On Dokis' Reserve none of the band reside, some of them go with Dokis' trading parties to the north, and others live on islands in Lake Nipissing, or on the main land, or on the Nipissing Reserve as Chief Dokis does, who there, besides his house had good crops on a small scale. In live stock there is not much done; there are more cows now on the reserves, but as the families of their owners frequently go away for days, berry picking, &c., I suspect the cows are not well attended to.

Schools—Until the end of this quarter there were four in operation, since then only three, as the teacher of the supplementary school on Parry Island sent in his resignation, and I have not yet been able to find another.

The average attendance at the schools is fair, but I regret to say that it is irregular.

During the winter I went with Mr. Switzer, P.S.I., to visit three of the schools, and he expressed himself well satisfied with the examinations and the manner in which the schools were conducted. The other school at Henvey's Inlet he had not then time to inspect.

This summer all the teachers of Indian schools in this Superintendency were examined by Mr. Switzer, along with the public school teachers, and he was satisfied with their proficiency.