

PART I

OF THE

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ONTARIO,
GRAND RIVER SUPERINTENDENCY,
BRANTFORD, 26th September, 1881.

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

SIR,—My Annual Return, together with this Report, for the year ended 30th June last, convey evidence of continued progress attending the Six Nation and the Mississagua Indians in this neighborhood.

The issue of seed in the spring of last year was productive of an abundant crop, so much so that no general want was felt during the winter and spring.

In many parts of the reserve of fifty thousand acres are substantial improvements in new clearings, fencing and buildings.

The show of the agricultural society held last fall—as predicted in my last Report—was very good, exceeding any previous effort, the drawback being want of room.

The society intends, however, with laudable enterprise to provide, at their own cost, a hall for the exhibition of products; they are about to enclose a park of twelve acres and erect a frame building, 70 by 30 feet, all of which is expected to be ready for this autumn show.

The Mississaguas have decided upon the construction of a brick building, in which to hold councils and meetings; it will be completed this year.

The annual ploughing matches took place in November, with the enlivening scene of twenty-eight competitors for twelve prizes, from the Governor General's plough to the wheel-barrow. These matches excite much interest among the Indians, while the presence of visitors from the surrounding country induces increased rivalry, producing results in the capital ploughing to be seen throughout the reserve.

In general, statute labor is well and zealously performed; the roads through the reserve are as good as country roads elsewhere, money being expended on bridges.

Some licenses were granted for cordwood and other cuttings, but the council wisely resolved to forbid exportation from the reserve, and with your approval, the traffic has virtually ceased.

The professing Christians among the Six Nations are Church of England, Baptist, Methodists and Brethren, while about 800 continue as Pagans.

The Mississaguas are of the Methodist body.

Education is attracting increased interest, and a more regular and numerous attendance by children is confidently expected.

There are twelve schools upon the reserve, eight of which are under the control of the Six Nation School Board. Seven of the teachers being competent Indians.

The Board consists of three representatives of the New England Company, three from the Indian Council, and the Visiting Superintendent in behalf of the Government.

The number of registered pupils on rolls of 12 day schools.....	595
Average daily attendance.....	177
Attendance at examination.....	334