

Opportunities for obtaining fire-water, the loss to a large extent of his hunting grounds, and the consequently greater difficulty in obtaining a livelihood, are causes which have perhaps contributed to this condition. There still remain among them, however, many who are honest, sober and industrious, and who may safely be relied upon as trusty guides through the trackless forest, or upon fishing or hunting expeditions. Many of them are experts in the weaving of baskets, in the building of birch bark canoes, in reading the book of nature, and with the paddle, the rifle and the spear.

That the Indians of Acadia are not decreasing in number would appear from the government returns, which give the Indian population of the three Acadian provinces as follows :

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
Nova Scotia.....	2141	2164	2108	1890	2027	1953
New Brunswick.....	1618	1668	1590	1658	1627	1667
P. E. Island.....	285	287	308	303	314	315

There are eighteen schools maintained by the government for the benefit of the Indians, of which eleven are in Nova Scotia, six in New Brunswick, and one in Prince Edward Island.

During the year ending 30th June, 1897, there were four hundred and six pupils enrolled at the eighteen schools, with an average attendance of one hundred and eighty-seven pupils, or nearly nineteen for each school.

In the same year there were among the total population of 3,935 no less than 4,817 acres of land under cultivation, they owned 1,660 implements and vehicles, 856 horses, cattle sheep and pigs, and 1,071 head of poultry; they raised 9,460 bushels of grain, 16,345 bushels of potatoes and roots, 1,502 tons of hay, and produced \$62,190 in value of fish, furs and other commodities.

In this year also there was expended by the government on their behalf: For salaries, \$2,817; for relief and seed