

ANNAPOLIS, N.S., 22nd August, 1892.

The Honourable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1892.

I have but little change to report this year amongst the Indians of my agency. The crops, so far, look exceedingly well. The Indians at Lequille are a very industrious class of people and they earn considerable by fishing in the spring; the young men work in the lumber woods in the winter and are smart and capable when spring opens at stream-driving. There was much sickness last spring amongst the older Indians and children, but there were no deaths; two births increased the population by this number; the health of the Indians is generally good. Peter Jamary, at Middleton, is quite a farmer and has put in a good crop this season and is very industrious. Those who remain at home during summer are coopers, making mast-hoops, jib-hanks and baskets. The children who attend school are making fair progress and the average is the same as that of last year.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. WELLS, Sr.,

Indian Agent.

BEAR RIVER, DIGBY Co., N.S.,

DISTRICT No. 1b., 1st September, 1892.

The Honourable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1892.

I have little of importance to note in the affairs of the Indians, as they still pursue the callings and pursuits of former years with little or no change for the better. There was considerable sickness on the reserve during the fall and winter, resulting in eight deaths, all but two being quite young children. There were eight births; the population has increased by twelve persons and now numbers one hundred and fifty-nine, the difference is caused by some of the young men having married wives in other counties and the arrival of a family from New Brunswick.

The potato crop was excellent last season, unaffected by blight, except in a few instances, and many of the Indians had enough to last them through the winter.

The school has been in operation for the past year and the pupils, under the excellent and thorough tuition of Mr. J. L. DeVaney, are making fair progress in the elementary branches of education. The average attendance has not increased as we were led to expect, from the promises given by the parents when the new teacher began his work; this is owing to the wandering habits of the Indians which are not favourable to the punctual attendance of their children at school, especially in the summer season when they go to the Bay of Fundy in quest of the porpoise, or camp in proximity to towns and villages to dispose of their wares, there being only a few families left on the reserve.

The sanitary measures, recommended by the department, have been carried out and, with few exceptions, the houses and surroundings are clean and neat.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. McDORMAND,

Indian Agent.