

say, they are constantly moving from place to place, and it frequently happens that many families absent for a number of years return all at the same time.

Since the date of my last Report there has been no marked progress, save that there have been no disputes amongst them as there were last year.

The band enjoyed good health throughout the year.

There were five deaths partly caused by consumption.

Many of the band are given over to drunkenness, causing great distress in their families. Up to the present time I have not been able to punish the persons who give them liquor, but I am certain to be able to do so soon.

The money given by the Department was distributed with the utmost economy as you will see by the pay list which you will receive by the first mail.

Collections on the sale of the Viger Reserve are made slowly. I believe there is urgent necessity for the Department to give me formal instructions for they are awaiting the formal remission of interest by the Department.

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

ANT. P. LABEL,
Indian Agent.

LAKE ST. JOHN AGENCY, P.Q.,
17th August, 1882.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to send you herewith tabular statement for the year ended 30th June last.

As you will see by the statement three deaths and eight births took place during the year, making an increase of five.

Large clearings have been put under cultivation this spring, the greater part of the sowing was done by the Indians themselves; judging from appearances the harvest will be good.

Many of them are preparing new land this summer to be ready for next spring.

The fall wheat which I had sown last summer on the land of the Chief, as an experiment, did not succeed, the frosts in the beginning of May destroyed it.

All my efforts since I have been amongst them have been made to induce the Indians to make clearings to enable them to live by farming.

The high price of furs has made their hunt profitable, the amount realized from the sale of furs last year was from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

There was no distress amongst them, nor any contagious disease.

At the hospital Dr. Matte continues to attend the sick, and I am happy to say, that he does so with skill and every possible attention; twenty per cent. of the patients have been admitted to the hospital since the month of September last.

The school has been better attended than usual, and nearly all the pupils are learning to read and write.

I remark that the Council established last year under 43 Victoria, chapter 28, has already borne fruit. Regular meetings have been held and rules passed to conduct the reserve.

Near Lake Mistasini reside a fifth of the families of the Montagnais tribe, six families arrived here this spring and propose to return there another year. These Indians have never received any Government assistance. One of these Montagnais took sick on the reserve, and I deemed it my duty to place him in the hospital where he died soon afterwards.