

There can be little doubt but that a general observance of these rules would contribute largely towards an improvement in the sanitary condition of the Indians.

The contemplated change referred to in the report of my predecessor for 1887 as then proposed to be made in the agencies for the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods Bands was carried out, and the Indians of the former section have now the advantage of the services of a practical man competent to advise and instruct them in the cultivation of the fertile lands contained in their reserves.

In the Savanne Agency the Indians of Lac des Mille Lacs Reserve had a favorable fur hunting season last year, and rabbits, game and fish being plentiful, these, supplemented with potatoes saved from the previous season's crop, afforded the Indians an ample supply of food during the winter.

They have erected new buildings for dwellings and for storing their crops, and this band may be regarded as being on the whole in a favorable condition.

The small band owning the reserve at Sturgeon Lake are similarly favored as regards fur-bearing animals, game and fish, but they do not cultivate the soil.

The Indians occupying the reserves at Wabigoon and Eagle Lake raise cattle and cultivate land, besides hunting and fishing.

The Department sold for these Indians the large timber on the reserve at Eagle Lake, of which there was a superfluity; the amount paid in hand for the privilege as well as the ground rent has been, and the dues to be collected on all timber cut will be carried to the credit of the band, and the interest on the same will be distributed periodically among the members of it.

The school was kept in operation up to the end of June last, when the teacher resigned, and he has not as yet been replaced by another.

The gardens of the Indians at Lac Seul are reported to be well cultivated, and the Indians are said to take a pride in attending to them.

Their cattle are likewise well cared for.

There were two schools in operation on the reserve up to the end of June, which were favorably reported of, but the teacher of one of them resigned and the vacancy had not been filled up to the date of the Agent's report.

The Indians who formerly occupied the reserve at Mattawan removed therefrom last year to another reserve owned by them at Wabus kang, where they have commenced to cultivate the soil and have erected a number of houses, and have begun the construction of a schoolhouse.

These Indians raised quite a quantity of potatoes in the year 1887, and they last season planted much more extensively. Fish, game and wild rice form staple articles of food with them.