

NOVA SCOTIA, DISTRICT No. 12.

No report from Rev. A. F. McGillivray.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, N.S., 11th November, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith a tabular statement, in connection with Indian Affairs in the County of Cape Breton, for the year ending 31st October, 1880.

Apart from that statement, there is nothing, since my last report, to call for any special mention on the condition of the Indians of this agency.

This year's crop on the reserve at Eskasoni, compares favorably with that of former years. The Indians on this reserve, especially those who are permanent residents, are doing fair progress in farm work. The scarcity of farming implements, such as ploughs, carts, and harrows—many being unable to provide themselves with these articles—I find to be the greatest drawback to the successful improvement and cultivation of the land.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. McKENZIE.

Indian Agent.

CHATHAM HEAD, N.B., 11th October, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose tabular statement and report on Indian Affairs within my Superintendency, for the year ended 30th June, 1880.

As regards agricultural improvement, there is not much advance to report, but I am confident that in another year there will be a marked improvement, in consequence of the instructions issued by the Department to distribute seed instead of cash.

I may state that at some of the reserves there is an advance in farming, but it is a difficult matter to convince them of the benefits they might derive by paying more attention to it. The past winter was not a good one for them, fish being very scarce.

The population, as asserted by some persons, is not on the decrease; you will observe by the census list, that there is a slight increase; this is caused by a family moving to Red Bank from St. John River; and I have had an opportunity of getting the most of the transient ones; I think last year some of these were missed. It is difficult to get it exactly correct, the names are so mixed.

I think there has been less drinking among them, and they have a great desire to have schools and churches on all the Reserves, or on those where they reside.

At Burnt Church, Northumberland County, there is a nice school, which has just been put into operation, and I have no doubt it will work to advantage; at the same place there is a very nice church, another at Eelground, and one at Red Bank; these are the places where the Indians reside in Northumberland County.

On the Richibucto River, Kent County, there are also two churches, one at Big Cove, and the other at Indian Island; these churches have been built, almost altogether, by their own exertions; there is a small amount due on them.

At Fort Folly, Westmoreland County, there is another church, which was built some years ago.