

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1885.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
OTTAWA, 1st January, 1886.  
THE INDIANS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Indians of the counties of Annapolis and Shelburne are of the Micmac stock, as are the Indians generally, of this Province. The Indians of these counties are said to be gradually improving in their habits. Their principal means of support are derived from fishing, hunting, from the sale of oil extracted from fish, and from the disposal of such articles as Indians generally manufacture. The Indian population of these counties is one hundred and twelve. I regret that the very meagre statistical statement forwarded by the agent prevents me from giving any further details respecting these Indians.

The sanitary condition of the Indians of the County of Digby, whose reserve is on Bear River, was not as good as usual during the past year. Consumption is the most fatal disease with which they are afflicted. Intemperance is not so common with members of this band as was formerly the case. The conviction and subsequent committal to prison of a person who had broken the law by selling intoxicants to some of them, has, doubtless, had a deterrent effect upon others.

The school on the reserve is favorably reported of by the Public School Inspector.

The Indians of the County of Yarmouth are included in the same agency, but there is no reserve in that county. They therefore camp on lands not their own, and very little is known about them. The Indian population of the two counties is two hundred and twenty-five. They have two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, of which twelve acres were newly broken this year. They raised nine hundred and thirty-three bushels of farm produce, and cut thirty and a half tons of hay. The value of the fish and furs taken by them is estimated at \$6,000; and from other industries they are stated to have realized \$3,080.

The Indians of King's County number only seventy-five souls. They are, for the most part, well behaved, temperate, and industrious in their habits. They support themselves principally by the manufacture and sale of Indian work. They have no reserve for general occupation. A few families are settled upon a lot consisting of ten acres, which the Department purchased for them several years since. The others occupy pieces of land which they have either brought or which are the property of white people. These Indians subsist principally by the sale of Indian wares. They have six acres under tillage, two acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised three hundred and eighty bushels of produce.

The Indians of the counties of Queen's and Lunenburg number one hundred souls. They are reported to be improving in their circumstances. They have one hundred and thirty acres under cultivation, whereof five acres were broken for the first time this year. Their pro-

ducts amounted to four hundred and fifty-six bushels of grain, and forty tons of hay was cut by them. Their principal means of subsistence are derived from the sale of articles of Indian manufacture.

The Indians of the County of Halifax are very industrious, and temperate in their habits. The Indian population of this county is one hundred and ten. They have thirty acres under cultivation, from which they raised two hundred and thirty bushels of produce and cut ten tons of hay.

The non-receipt of a Report from Mr. Gass, the agent for the county of Hants, prevents me from adding anything to the remarks contained in my report of 1884 respecting these Indians, which had necessarily to be very brief, from the same cause.

The Indians of the County of Colchester have no reserve. The lands they occupy do not belong to them. They consequently do very little in the agricultural line. Truro is the point most resorted to by the Indians of this county, and it is also much frequented by Indians from adjoining counties. They can here find a ready mart for their manufactures. The Indian population of the county is one hundred.

The condition of the Indians of the County of Cumberland appears to be improving. They are, for the most part, temperate and industrious. Their principal occupations are coopering and farming. The number seventy-seven souls. They have sixteen acres under cultivation, of which six acres were newly broken this year. The raised four hundred and fifty bushels of produce and cut five tons of hay. Their other industries realized for them about \$800.

The condition of the Indians of the County of Pictou is reported to be unchanged. They derive a subsistence principally fishing and coopering. Very little interest is manifested by them in farming. The school on the reserve at Fisher's Grant has been closed for some months. The teacher having resigned, it is not easy to obtain the services of another competent person for the position.

The Indian agent for the counties of Antigonish and Guysboro' having only forwarded a statistical statement, I am unable to do more than furnish statistics respecting the Indians of those counties. They number fifty souls, have one hundred and seventeen acres of land under cultivation, raised five hundred and twenty-five bushels of produce, cut thirty-two tons of hay; and they realized from other industries about \$1,300.

The Indians of the County of Inverness are improving morally, being more temperate in their habits than was formerly the case. They have a school on the reserve at Whycocomagh, which is well reported of by the Public School Inspector, and the children attending it are said to be making fair progress in their studies. The Indian population of the county is one hundred and fourteen. They have two hundred and sixty acres under tillage, of which six acres were newly broken this year. They raised one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two bushels of produce and cut one hundred and fifty tons of hay.

The Indians of the County of Cape Breton

have, I regret to report, suffered very much from sickness. Consumption has been very fatal among them. On the reserve at Eskasoni considerable progress in cultivating the soil is apparent. The school on the reserve is not regularly attended by the Indian children, and they do not therefore derive the benefit therefrom that would otherwise be the case. The population of the county is two hundred and fifty-two. They have two hundred and fifty acres under cultivation, four acres of which were newly broken this year. They raised two thousand three hundred and seventy bushels of produce and ninety-five tons of hay.

No report or statistical statement having been received from the Rev. R. Grant, Indian agent for the County of Victoria, I am unable to give any particulars regarding the Indians of that county, other than those contained in my Report for 1884.

The same remark has to be made respecting Indian affairs in the County of Richmond, for which county the Rev. John McDougall is Indian agent. The Department has had a road built from the mainland to Chapel Island, which forms part of the reserve of these Indians. This will be a great convenience to the public generally. A small wharf will also be constructed in the ensuing spring, at the terminus of the road, for the landing of vessels.

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## THE MARKET REPORTS.

## FISH MARKET.

Reported by J. Keeckie, Toronto.

No. 1 L. S. Salmon Trout, in hf. bbls. \$3.35; qr. bbls. \$1.85; kitts, \$1.00. No. 1, L. S. White Fish, in hf. bbls., \$5.00; qr. bbls., \$2.65; kitts, \$1.50. No. 1 L. H. Round Herring, in hf. bbls., \$2.50; qr. bbls., \$1.40; kitts, 75 cts. No. 1 L. H. Split Herring, in hf. bbls., \$3.00; qr. bbls., \$1.70; kitts, 90. No. 1 Labrador Herrings in bbls., \$4.00. No. 1 Cod Fish, in quintals, \$4.00.

All fish are inspected before shipping.

## FUR MARKET.

Reported by C. N. Basteda, & Co., Toronto.

Beaver, per lb., \$2.00 to \$3.00. Bear, ½ lb., \$2.00 to \$15.00. Bear Cub, \$1.00 to \$6.00. Wild Cat, 50c. to 75c. Fox, Red, 50c. to 75c. Fox, Cross, \$2.50 to 3.50. Fisher, \$4.00 to \$7.00. Lynx, \$2.00 to \$3.50. Martin, 50c. to \$1.50. Mink, 10c. to 50c. Muskrat, 7c. to 10c. Muskrat, kitts, 3c. to 4c. Otter, \$3.00 to \$9.00. Raccoon, 10c. to 70c. Skunk, 10c. to 90c. Wolf, \$1.50 to \$2.50. Deer Skin, 15c. to 20c.

[Prompt returns for all furs shipped to us. Reference Central Bank, Toronto.]

## GAME MARKET.

Reported by Dixon & Morton, Hamilton.

Partridge, 40 to 45cts. per Brace; Quail, 30c; Ducks, 30c; Red Heads, 40c; Gray Heads, 45c; Canvas Ducks, 50; Mallards, 35c; Teal, 20c; Wood Duck, 20c; Snipe, 15; Plover, 15c; Woodcock, 50c; Cock of the Wood, 40c; Game Pigeon, 15c; Wild Pigeon, 15c; Prairie Chicken, 80c; Sage Hens, 70c; Deer, 3½ to 5cts. per lb; Moose Deer, 5c; Beaver without skin, 4½ to 6c; Rabbits, 20 to 25cts. per Brace; Hares, 25 to 30c.