

KENTVILLE, N.S., 17th July, 1884.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to send you, to day, my annual Report on the state of the Indians in this County, as well as tabular statements connected therewith.

I have still the pleasure to record the peaceable, quiet and orderly conduct of the Indians of this Agency, being far superior to that of their white neighbors, of the same class in life. They are almost all of them sober, temperate, and moderately industrious. As a rule they are a religious people, many of them pious, strictly Roman Catholic, attending their chapels on Sundays and holidays whenever they can—some, perhaps weak in morals, through the faults of their white neighbors.

Death has stricken down two of the most notable men among them, father and son—I mean the two Pauls. I placed more confidence in Joseph Paul than any other man among them. I entrusted the management of the Indian or Government fund entirely to him and was guided much by his judgment. They will be much missed here, as newer families are coming in who are not their equals.

Some six weeks since I received information of an outrage committed upon two peaceable, inoffensive families, by two drunken roughs breaking into their camp in the night, beating the men, the women fleeing into the woods, in their fright, for safety. They then set fire to their camp, after breaking and destroying everything valuable. This occurred about eighteen miles from here. I immediately wrote to a prominent magistrate in that neighborhood, asking him to take notice of the affair and bring the offenders to justice.

I have since learned that with the help of Father Holden they have compromised the affair with money; but it should have been a criminal matter.

There are no Indian schools in this County, but the public schools are all open to Indians. They do not, however, often avail themselves of the privilege thus open to them. One boy, however, attends our school, and a bright, clever fellow he is, and a favorite with the whole school.

The Indian is evidently in a state of transition. Woods, guns and hunting grounds disappear, but enterprise, ambition and amalgamation will take their place, and the effect will some day be apparent.

Pardon this digression, but I cannot help thinking that they will attain, as they deserve, a future better than their present.

Your most obedient servant,

I. E. BECKWITH,

Indian Agent, District No. 2.

CALEDONIA, N. S., 25th August, 1884.

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

SIR,—As the accompanying tabular statement contains all requisite information, any Report for this year, concerning the Indians in the counties of Queen's and Lunenburg, must necessarily be brief.

Death has carried off, within the past two months, Mr. Peter Gload, of Grafton, and his wife, Hannah. Gload was a man of an industrious nature, and had made a very comfortable home for himself and family. He was the only self-supporting Indian in the County.

Bad neighbours have since frightened their only daughter from the homestead, in order, I am told, that the practice of stealing timber may the more easily be carried on.