

are Roman Catholics they had the right to the existing school and the Protestants seceded, and they have now an established school conducted under the auspices of the Methodist body and an Indian teacher from the Bay of Quinte. I am of opinion that an efficient Indian teacher who could speak and teach both languages would have an advantage over one who could not understand the native tongue.

What seems very characteristic of the Indian is a desire for change, especially in those who hold any office; and they are continually trumping up some charge against their chiefs, and the chiefs and Indians against their agent, even the Reverend Father coming in for his share. Could they have their way, six months or a year would be as long as any one would be tolerated in office. For instance, the Indian clerk, whom the chiefs appoint, is changed at least every year, and sometimes holds office during one payment only. The only time the quietness of the village is disturbed is when one or more imbibes too much liquor, and then they go in for testing their lungs, much to the annoyance of the other residents and discomfort of the nervous, but seldom anything serious happens.

It seems, no matter how heavy are the penalties and strict the laws against those who sell or give liquor to Indians, that they will get all they want. If they cannot go to an hotel and drink or purchase for themselves they can get some one to purchase a bottle or jug, and very often sell to one another. Many of the young men, and older ones too, when they do go off and earn a few dollars, come home and spend it in liquor when their families are needing it very much.

The Indians are having some rooms fitted up in the parsonage for a young priest whom they are expecting to come to take charge of the mission as soon as the present father gets him instructed in the language. It is hoped the Indians will then do something towards placing their church in a better state of repair. A number of them would do nothing towards it as long as the present priest had the charge, as he is getting too old and feeble to attend to his duties and too exacting of them. Such was their excuse, but I fear something else may be made an excuse when the change is made and funds required.

As a general thing, if the chiefs were not at loggerheads, there would be very little trouble in getting along with the band, but one side is always getting up some charge against the other, which makes it very disagreeable, and these charges for the most part are frivolous.

The crops throughout the Reserve have the appearance of a good yield, but there might be a greater area sown with very little more labor, for in the village there are a number of lots from one quarter of an acre to one acre, growing up in thistles, when something of more benefit could be raised.

The wood question will no doubt be the worst one to deal with before long, owing to the scarcity thereof on the Canada side, and their neighbors on the American side, although they have plenty now, are set against allowing wood to be taken from their reserve, although, it is said, they helped to use ours up in early years.

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

JOHN DAVIDSON,  
*Indian Agent.*

VIGER AGENCY,  
RIVIERE DU LOUP, 25th October, 1882.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit my Report for the year ended 30th June last. As you will notice by the tabular statement, there has been an increase of eighteen in the census, which is due to the nomadic habits of the Indians, that is to