

Department of Indian Affairs.

LAKE ST. JOHN, P.Q., 19th August, 1892.

The Honourable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you my annual report for the year ended the 30th June last.

Consumption, a disease from which, from congenital causes often aggravated by imprudence, the Indians are apt to suffer, has caused several deaths since my last report.

These Indians had very little success in hunting, and they are, in consequence, in rather poor circumstances.

The appearance of the crop is good, and a fair yield is expected.

Several houses have been constructed and new clearings made.

Judging from the improvements which are being made and those that are projected on account of the new survey recently made by Mr. H. Dumais, I have no doubt that an impetus will be given to agriculture.

The proprietors will in future easily find out the position of their respective lots, the surveyor having run lines for that purpose, and much trouble will be avoided.

Many more patients were admitted to the hospital during the present year than in former years.

The pupils have attended the classes more regularly than usual.

The Indians of the Lower Saguenay were not visited this year, but the curés of those places report poverty among them, owing to the chase having been almost a complete failure.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

L. E. OTIS,
Indian Agent.

INDIAN AGENCY OF STE. ANNE DE RESTIGOUCHE, P. Q.,
CAMPBELLTON, N.B., 17th October, 1892.

The Honourable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you my annual report and tabular statement on the affairs of the Indians of my agency, for the year ended 30th of June last.

These Indians, with the exception of a few who always manage to procure intoxicants, either at Campbellton or at Dalhousie, are generally well-behaved. The use of liquor on the reserve is decreasing, but it is to be regretted that those Indians are able to procure intoxicants, it is their greatest drawback. They do not get liquor direct from the traders themselves, for these are well watched, and they know very well the severe penalty attached to the offence; they employ white go-betweens for that purpose, and the traders themselves cannot be reached by the law, for the Indians absolutely refuse to divulge their names.

In general, the Indians are very remiss to sending their children to school; they give various reasons for their neglect to do so, none of which are satisfactory.

The change which recently took place in the direction of this school will, I hope, improve matters. By the attendance book it was found that the number of pupils frequenting school had increased from thirty to fifty-six, which is a greater number than the school should contain, on hygienic principles.