

The improvement from year to year on the reserves is very inconsiderable. A small patch is either cleared of its woods, or what is already cleared is plowed by such as plant in the spring; no other efforts are made towards cultivating their lands.

Our Indians here, in general, are sober, and are noted for the simplicity of character and the absence of many of those crimes and cases of gross immorality which too often blacken the characters of their more pretentious and enlightened brethren.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. CHISHOLM.

RED ISLAND, RICHMOND Co., N.S.

No report from Rev. J. McDougall.

NOVA SCOTIA, INDIAN DISTRICT No. 11,
INVERNESS Co., RIVER INHABITANTS.

September, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—It again becomes my duty to inform your Department of the state of the Indians under my supervision: the tabular statement, which I forward herewith contains much important information regarding them which it would be superfluous to reproduce here.

I am happy to be able to report an unmistakable improvement in the condition of all the Indians of my agency. Each succeeding year shows more clearly than the preceding one, that it is only a question of time to find them good and useful citizens, provided only that they be well treated, and have fair opportunities of advancement. Among them agriculture is yearly being better attended to; but they do not yet devote as much attention to that important industry as I would wish. Their hay is this year very good. Their other crops promise an excellent yield; but, I am sorry to say, their grain fields are yet very limited in extent. Considering the unusual severity of last spring throughout Nova Scotia, their thrift and contentment are admirable. Those who were likely to suffer destitution in the early part of the summer, received timely relief through the funds so generously placed at my disposal, by your Department.

Some of the whites, contiguous to the band of Whycocomagh, to whose trespasses I had occasion to refer in some former reports, are still using valuable portions of the Whycocomagh Reserve. It is a matter of regret that whites, who profess to be Christians, should invariably, when an opportunity presents itself, do their utmost to impose upon and defraud of their rights, the Indians who never trespass against them.

The children attending the Indian school on the Whycocomagh Reserve, are under the tuition of Mr. McEachen, an excellent teacher, and those who attend regularly are making satisfactory progress; but it is probable that in the course of a few years the beneficial results of Mr. McEachen's labours among the "lords of the forest primeval" will be more patent and more felt than they now are.

As a class, the Indians, with whom I have to deal, are sober and very well-conducted and very industrious. Cases of drunkenness are of very rare occurrence among them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. McISAAC,

Indian Agent.