

of school houses, wherein they hope to obtain such an education for their children as they have been longing for many years past to obtain, and I sincerely trust that it will be a means of bringing them to the reserves and concentrating more of them on the same for the purpose of receiving that instruction in the schools which will make them better fitted to discharge the various duties of life, and also give them a greater taste for cultivating the soil in connection with their generally natural pursuits, thereby making them to live more in accordance with the advancing state of civilization.

Agriculture has been carried on more extensively on the reserve at Kingsclear than in any part of my Superintendency, but owing to the large quantity of rain which fell during the season of 1881, and also to the prevalence of the so-called potato bug, their crops were smaller than usual; and in consequence of the Indians not having cattle for manure purposes wherewith to enrich the land, they cannot, notwithstanding many other advantages, be successful farmers even in a small way, and I have advised them to obtain stock, if possible, which will pay for itself in many ways, such as the supplying them with milk, butter, &c. The amount of farming done in the other reserves has not generally amounted to much, and during the season of 1881 the small reserve of St. Mary's, with the addition of land purchased from parties adjoining, and at Oromocto in Sunbury County, at Scotch Town in Queen's County, and in different parts of Charlotte County, these being all the places for which I appropriated seed, &c., during that season, owing to unfavorableness of the weather and in some cases of the Indians using the seed for food, the quantity of farm produce raised was small.

Hunting is carried on to a small extent, but owing to the increasing occupation of the lands of the country by other portions of the population, and the distance to the hunting grounds being so great, and also to their being occupied to a certain extent in the same manner as farm laborers and stream and river drivers, &c., and giving more attention to the manufacture of various articles in their peculiar line of business, the quantity of furs secured by them is gradually decreasing.

Fishing is not much engaged in, and they only catch for their own use and immediate wants, except at St. George, in the County of Charlotte, where porpoise hunting has generally been more or less attended to.

I regret to state that, notwithstanding the operation of the so-called Scott Act, and the vigilance of the Indian and other police forces, intoxication still prevails among this people, and that the description of liquor purchased by them from disreputable dealers is of a very inferior quality, being greatly adulterated with noxious ingredients highly injurious (more so I am sorry to say and believe under the operation of the said Act than previously), for the purpose of making all the money they can in view of the fine by possible conviction.

The general health of the several bands is good, although there has been more or less sickness during the year at the reserves in Kingsclear and St. Mary's and in some parts of Charlotte County, their manner of living being prejudicial to real good health, inasmuch as their houses and wigwams are small and badly ventilated, sometimes being exceedingly hot and at others quite the reverse, and their dwellings are used for many unhealthy purposes such as the cleaning and oiling of hides, and such like, to which I have called their attention repeatedly and suggested a change, but to little purpose.

An improvement is taking place occasionally in the erection of better dwellings and the repairing and making of others more comfortable. The church, cemetery, mission house and barn at Kingsclear are creditable to their industry and good taste.

In conclusion, I have only to state that, generally speaking, there does not seem to me to be much alteration among them, but hope that the introduction of schools will be the means of improving their condition physically, intellectually and morally.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient seryant,

WILLIAM FISHER,
Indian Agent.