

The failure on the part of Mr. LeBel, the local Indian Agent, to forward a report on the condition of the Amalecites of Cacouna, Rivière du Loup and Rimouski renders me incapable of supplying any additional information to that contained in my Report for 1884 in regard to those Indians.

The agent last referred to as having been derelict of his duty through failure to forward his report, was, as was the case with several other agents, whose names will appear hereafter, repeatedly instructed to report; and it is certainly an indication that but little interest is taken in his duties when an Agent does not consider it worth his while to forward a report once a year upon the affairs of his agency.

The Micmac band, whose reserve is situated on the River Restigouche, in the County of Bonaventure, number about 500 souls. There was considerable drunkenness for some time prevalent among these Indians. With a view to the amendment of matters in this respect, the Department of Justice, at the request of this Department, appointed a Dominion constable to reside upon the reserve. The services of the stipendiary magistrate for the district of Gaspé were likewise enlisted, in order that offenders against the law might be summarily prosecuted. These measures have resulted in a complete change in the condition of matters on the reserve. These Indians possess ample resources, in the immediate neighbourhood of their reserve, for procuring a comfortable subsistence. They have, moreover, an extensive tract of arable land to cultivate. If they do not avail themselves of these advantages they have only themselves to blame. I regret that the non-receipt of a statistical statement from the agent prevents my supplying any details in respect to the property or industries of this band. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The other Micmac band, of the County of Bonaventure, in the Township of Maria, numbers only one hundred and seven souls. They have made some progress in agriculture, and have purchased farming implements, waggons and horses; and have built barns for their produce and repaired their houses. They have three hundred and sixteen acres under cultivation, whereof twenty acres were newly broken this year. They raised one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight bushels of produce and cut forty tons of hay. There is a school in operation on the reserve.

The Montagnais band, whose reserve is at Pointe Bleue, on Lac St. Jean, in the County of Chicoutimi, are making fair progress in agriculture. Order and sobriety are characteristic of these people. The school on the reserve is well attended. The population of the band numbers three hundred and ninety-nine. They have one hundred acres under cultivation, of which twenty-three acres were broken for the first time this year. From this land they raised one thousand eight hundred and ten bushels of produce, and cut forty tons of hay. These Indians [still engage in the winter season in hunting fur-bearing animals, although the advancement of settlement has driven the animals to such a distance as to