

of islands forms a wonderful camping ground, and the bass fishing is exceedingly good. The large number of tourists who even now are using it, furnish employment to Indian boatmen and others during the summer months.

The school on Christian Island is now conducted by a female teacher, and I think the change will be beneficial, as the children who attend the school are mostly quite young, and will, no doubt, get better attention and advance more rapidly under the supervision of a female teacher.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. THOMPSON,

*Indian Agent.*

SCUGOG AGENCY, ONTARIO, 27th August, 1885.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report on Indian matters in this Agency together with the enclosed tabular statement, for the year ended 30th June, 1885.

The Indians belonging to this band are now in a better position to work their own land than ever before. This is owing to the Department having this year supplied them with good horses, harness, waggon, and other necessaries for farm work, and although the Indians did not get their horses until late in the season, I must say the work so far has been encouraging. They have a nice crop of oats, the largest crop of corn and potatoes ever raised on the reserve, and have also summer fallowed nearly all their land, having ploughed it a second and a greater part of it a third time, putting it in really excellent order for next year's crop. The trouble existing for years, of the Indians renting their lands to the whites is now an evil of the past, as not a single acre has been worked by outsiders this season. The general health of the band is good, there being one death and two births in the last twelve months, the band now numbers forty-four (44) an increase of one over last year. I am sorry to report that school matters remain at a standstill, as I find it is impossible to persuade any of the children to attend the school which adjoins the reserve. The fishing in Scugog Lake this year has been unusually good, the Indians finding it a never failing source of food supply, besides catching large numbers of fish for sale. I am glad to report that the use of intoxicants among the Indians is decreasing, but there are two or three Indians who continue to baffle all efforts to prevent them obtaining liquor, as they manage some way or other to get it every time they go to any of the neighboring villages. I am now working strenuously to catch the parties who procure the liquor for them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE B. McDERMOT,

*Indian Agent.*

Rev. W. W. Shepherd's report on Mount Elgin Industrial Institution not yet received.