

In May last this band, in the interest of health, removed all offensive accumulations from their premises. Their reserve is very favourably situated, all of their buildings being erected on a slope of land that always affords a natural system of drainage and, were it not for the measles epidemic before referred to, they would have been free from all sickness other than cases arising from natural causes.

The school at this reserve was under the supervision of Miss B. L. Crowley for the full term. The attendance for the year was remarkably good. No child is permitted to be absent without good reason. The branches taught were spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, &c. The number on the register was twenty-five, with an average of eighteen for the year. The subjects taught have been well mastered and the progress of the pupils has been noticeable at each examination. The health and comfort of the children are carefully looked after both in winter and summer.

Woodstock Reserve.

This reserve, situated three miles below the town of Woodstock, is occupied by eight families, being all related. They exclude all other Indians of the county as much as possible from their reserve. Like other Indians of the agency they chiefly derive their living from the sale of Indian wares, which are easily disposed of at Woodstock and elsewhere. Last year they gave but little attention to farming; only raising, from seeds supplied, some potatoes and oats. This year, however, they decided to do better and received twenty-five and one-quarter bushels of potatoes, thirty bushels of oats, besides beans, grass and garden seeds; these will raise sufficient produce to supply their wants for the coming winter.

During my recent visit to the reserve I discovered that all of the children were sick from the measles, but were fast recovering. I further found, and in fact the band freely admitted, that the epidemic was caused by the Indians visiting Kingsclear Reserve in June last. The most of the Indians of this county are located in shanties at Upper Woodstock and on the road leading to Houlton State of Maine; some experience considerable hardship owing to old age and their situation, but are assisted from means allowed for this purpose.

The remainder of Indians under my supervision are located at Oromocto, Sunbury Co.; Upper Gagetown, Queen's Co.; Apohaqui, King's Co.; St. Andrew's, Charlotte Co., and a few in St. John, N.B.

Their occupation is much the same as that of last year, viz., milling, fishing and Indian wares. The latter articles are generally sold to farmers and when money is not available they will take trade.

A few seeds are supplied yearly to some of the Indians which are planted on the lands of their white neighbours. The results of this mode of farming only serve their wants during the fall season.

At Oromocto, Sunbury Co., considerable sickness prevailed amongst the aged and children; four of the former, whose ages ranged from eighty to ninety years, died within the year. The latter although visited with a bad type of measles, survived their sickness.

The total population of this agency for the fiscal year is four hundred and fifty-six. The births were eighteen and the deaths seventeen, which accounts for an increase of one, compared with the returns of 1891.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES FARRELL,

Indian Agent.