

The population has increased this year, as up to the present time the births exceed the number of deaths by twenty-three.

The quarries on the reserve have a wide-spread reputation which promises much for the future, for persons have come from Montreal, St. Anne, Carillon and Yamaska, to look for stone, who consider it of the finest quality for all kinds of work.

Mr. McLea Walbank, P.L.S. deserves that special mention should be made of the manner in which he has performed his duties. He is exceedingly hard-working and intelligent, and his moral example is admired by the men of the tribe, who have great confidence in him.

These are the points to which I wish to draw the attention of the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

G. E. CHERRIER,
Indian Agent.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
ST. REGIS AGENCY,
DUNDEE, 24th August, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, for the information of the Department, the tabular statement for the year ended the 30th June last, together with this Report,

The increase in population during the year ended is 38, the largest increase of any year for some time.

I have no casualties to report, and the general health and prosperity of the reserve has been in keeping with previous years.

What seems to agitate the Indian mind most, at present, is getting back the lands in Dundee whose leases have expired. In April last a Dominion Land Surveyor was sent here by the Department to go over the special reserve, to note in what condition the extent of the land they now occupy was, and also to inspect the lots in Dundee the term of lease for which had expired, and to report to the Department. I can state that the inspection of their lands, etc., was as thorough as it was possible to be in the time and by the method taken; and I have every confidence that the report will be impartial and conscientious.

What to do to better the Indians' condition is a question somewhat difficult to solve. If they would do what lies in their power to help themselves it would lessen the expense and responsibility of those who have them in charge. If you were to pass through the village at most any time you will see a large number of able-bodied young men loitering about, probably pitching coppers, when they might be earning good wages when laborers are so scarce.

The Indian school at the Chenail was just opened when my last report was written. It has the largest attendance of any of the schools in operation, and is doing as well as could be expected. The St. Regis school continues in the same condition as far as attendance is concerned, in spite of all the efforts of the teacher to induce the parents to send their children. The Cornwall Island school is sparsely attended of late, but this is owing to a Protestant school being in operation on the Island. The Protestants would have continued to send their children to the first school irrespective of religion, if there had been an Indian teacher continued, as they considered it to be a great advantage to have a teacher that could speak both languages; but no Roman Catholic Indian teacher could be got, and the Reverend Father who has charge of the mission would not allow the members of his church, under certain penalties being enforced, to send their children should any one but a Roman Catholic be employed as a teacher, therefore, as the majority of the Islanders