

to enable them to obtain seed have been made to those who required assistance, to be repaid out of their next annuity payment.

During the winter some bands worked at getting out railway ties and cedar posts, thus earning sufficient to add considerable to their comforts.

Complaints have been made by the Indians of the difficulty experienced in obtaining a supply of fish for daily domestic use, caused by the establishment of pound nets around their reserves, the matter was brought to the notice of the Department of Fisheries, and orders have been given by that Department for the removal of the nets from the neighborhood of Wikwemikong; but up to this date the removal has not taken place.

The unfortunate destruction by fire of the boys' and girls' industrial school buildings at Wikwemikong is much to be regretted, not only for the large pecuniary loss incurred, but also for the check to the education of the children caused thereby, many of the scholars having been sent back to their parents for want of space in the building temporarily used as school-houses. Energetic efforts have been made by the reverend gentlemen and also by the ladies of the mission towards the erection of new buildings, and it is expected that the girls' industrial school will be in full operation before winter sets in, and also that a new school-house for the boys will be built next year.

Schools for the education of Indian children have been in operation during the past year at Wikwemikong, Wikwemikongsing, South Bay, Buzwabs, Sheguiandah and West Bay, upon this island, and at White Fish Lake, White Fish River, Serpent River and Mississauga, on the mainland. The schools have been inspected by P. McLean, Esq., Public School Inspector, who will doubtless report fully to the Department thereon.

Liberal supplies of maps, books and other school material have been furnished by the Department.

New school-houses are in course of erection at Sagamook, White Fish Lake and Buzwabs, the main body of each building being put up by the Indians, and the nails, boards, shingles, window sashes, glass, &c., being provided by the Department.

Blankets were distributed last fall amongst the sick and infirm of the various bands, a boon which is highly appreciated by the recipients.

Constant efforts which have been made to check the sale of liquor to Indians, have been attended with a certain measure of success; but so long as the Indians continue to cloak the doings of the whisky sellers the prevention of the traffic will be attended with difficulty.

During the year the wharf at Manitowaning, the property of the Department, has been placed in a thorough state of repair, at an expenditure of \$413.45. The house at Manitowaning, occupied by Mr. A. McGregor, Ironside, Clerk and Interpreter, has also been repaired, at a cost of \$75.

The amount of money distributed in this superintendency as annuity and interest money is \$11,431.64, for the year ended 30th June.

The general health of the Indians has been satisfactory. Dr. Stephen, the medical officer, has been attentive to his duties, and his treatment was skillful and successful.

Considerable labor has been expended by the Indians in keeping their roads in their various reserves in order, notably on the Wikwemikong Indian reserve, where the roads are in excellent condition, as many as 120 men having been seen at work on the roads at one time.

The past year has been an eventful one for the Indians upon this island. The burning of their school house at Wikwemikong, the hay famine, the destruction of their seed potatoes by frost, the feeding of their seed grain to their cattle to keep them alive, and the length and extreme severity of the winter, severely taxed the energies of the Indians to make head against such a combination of untoward circumstances, but by perseverance and industry they have succeeded, and the outlook for the coming year is promising. The grain and root crops bid fair to yield an average quantity, of good quality, and although the hay crop has been light the defici-