

1881

# Report of the Agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

C. H. Porter

*Indian Agent, State of Maine*

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REPORT OF THE AGENT

OF THE

PASSAMAQUODDY INDIANS,

FOR THE YEAR

1881.



AUGUSTA :

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1882.

# REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Governor and Council of Maine:*

I have the honor to present my Report as Agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, for the year ending November 30th, 1881.

The expenditures will be more fully shown by my account herewith submitted, with the accompanying vouchers.

The appropriations for the year, as will appear by a resolve of the Legislature, were as follows, viz :

For May dividends.....	\$400 00
November dividends.....	300 00
Distressed poor.....	2,000 00
Agricultural purposes .....	600 00
Bounty on crops.....	300 00
Ploughing .....	150 00
Salaries of Governors .....	100 00
Salaries of Lieut. Governors .....	40 00
Wood.....	200 00
Contingent purposes.....	100 00
Educational purposes.....	600 00
Salary of Priest .....	100 00
Dressing for land.....	100 00
Salary of Agent.....	200 00
Contingent poor.....	500 00
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	\$5,690 00

The Expenditures have been as follows, viz :

For May dividends .....	\$378 50
November dividends. ....	315 10
Distressed poor.....	2,198 23
Agricultural purposes .....	528 00
Bounty on crops.....	174 68
Ploughing .....	159 50
Salaries of Governors .....	100 00
Salaries of Lieut. Governors .....	40 00
Wood.....	162 00
Contingent purposes.....	100 69
Educational purposes.....	600 00
Salaries of Priests .....	100 00
Dressing for land.....	166 00
Salary of Agent.....	200 00
Contingent poor.....	512 20
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	\$5,734 90

#### RECEIPTS.

Amount left in my hands Nov. 30, 1880	\$44 90
April 6. Warrant on State Treasurer.....	2,500 00
July 6. " " " .....	1,000 00
Sept. 20. " " " .....	2,090 00
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	5,634 90
Amount due me.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,734 90

The population of the tribe by the May census, was :

Males .....	270
Females .....	250
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Total.....	520

There has been rather more than the usual amount of sickness in the tribe during the year, principally among the young. The venerable Governor, Selmor Francis, of Pleas-

ant Point, is now lying dangerously ill with gangrene, and is thought to be beyond recovery.

The number of deaths during the year was fifteen, of which ten were under six years.

#### AGRICULTURAL.

Owing to the backwardness of the season, the continued wet weather during the spring and summer, and the potato bug, which has been very destructive in the vicinity of the Indian reservations, the crops have been comparatively small. I have had to exceed the appropriation for dressing, as it is inadequate for the purpose for which it is intended. The scarcity of land at Pleasant Point is a great drawback to the farming interests of the Indians, there being but one hundred acres, a considerable portion of which consists of swamp and ledge and is unfit for farming purposes.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The schools, under the able management of Sisters Clare and Stamslau, are in a very flourishing condition, considering the adverse circumstances under which they labor. The teachers have established themselves firmly in the hearts of the Indians, and as a result the number of scholars at Pleasant Point has more than doubled during the year, and we may expect from the rising generation more intelligence and a higher degree of civilization as the result of these schools, than that which has existed in times past among them.

The churches, both at Pleasant Point and at Peter Dana's Point, are somewhat out of repair, having been leaking for some time, and the plastering has given way in some places. The foundations also need looking after.

The school house at Pleasant Point is at present by far too small, and the school is carried on with all the discomforts and inconveniences of an over-crowded room. There are already double the number of scholars that the school house will accommodate comfortably, and a number of children, beside, cannot be admitted on that account.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

The remainder of the peninsular of which Pleasant Point forms a part, consisting of one hundred acres, more or less, and now owned by the whites, can all, or nearly all, be bought at a fair price; and I would recommend that an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) be made and a commission be appointed to purchase the aforesaid land and have it laid out in lots. This would, I consider, be an act of simple justice to the Indians, as an equivalent to the leasing for a term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years (or virtual sale) of part of the Indian Township, so called, by the whites, now being carried on agreeable to an act of the Legislature in 1879.

I would also recommend that an appropriation of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) be made for the purpose of enlarging the school house at Pleasant Point, which should be, at least, double its present size.

Also, an appropriation of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the purchase of a new bell for the church at Pleasant Point, as the present one is rendered useless by cracks in it. This would also be used as a school bell.

Also, an appropriation of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for repairs on churches, both at Pleasant Point and at Peter Dana's Point.

The other appropriations, except the item of dressing for land, I think will be amply sufficient for the ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. H. PORTER,

*Agent Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians.*

CALAIS, Nov. 30, 1881.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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In COUNCIL, December 14, 1881.

Read, accepted, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH O. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*