

1881

# Report of the Agent of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians

Charles A. Bailey

*Indian Agent, State of Maine*

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REPORT OF THE AGENT

OF THE

PENOBSCOT TRIBE OF INDIANS,

FOR THE YEAR

1881.

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AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1882.

# REPORT.

*To the Honorable Governor and Council:*

In compliance with the law requiring the Agent for the Penobscot tribe of Indians to make report yearly of the condition of that tribe, and of the receipts and expenditures of money in their behalf, the following is respectfully submitted as such report for the year 1881.

The last Legislature made the following appropriations for this tribe: (See chapter 50, page 51, resolves 1881.)

Amount, interest Indian Trust Fund.....	\$4,429 70
annual annuity .....	1,500 00
agriculture .....	700 00
bounty on crops.....	450 00
schools.....	600 00
repair of chapel.....	250 00
salary of Agent.....	200 00
Governor of tribe.....	50 00
Lieut. Governor of tribe ....	30 00
Priest.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,309 70

The Governor and Council have issued warrants for said tribe during the year as follows:

March, State warrant.....	\$2,000 00
April,   "   " .....	2,800 00
July,   "   " .....	300 00
Dec.,   "   " .....	3,209 70
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	\$8,309 70

## Received from other sources :

F. Gilman, rent 5 islands .....	\$15 00	
W. H. Chesley, rent Brown islands...	16 00	
J. Shedd, rent boom islands.....	2 00	
		\$33 00
		\$8,342 70
Amount in excess of annuity appropriation.....	128 35	
“ “ for church repairs.....	50 00	
		\$8,521 05

## EXPENDITURES.

For agricultural purposes .....	\$693 39	
bounty on crops.....	352 13	
goods for annuity.....	1,628 35	
schools.....	558 48	
repair of chapel.....	309 00	
salary of Agent.....	200 00	
Priest.....	100 00	
Governor of tribe.....	50 00	
Lieut. Governor of tribe	30 00	
goods for spring dividend....	704 50	
support of poor, aged, infirm, &c.	2,149 10	
medicine and medical attendance.	529 95	
wood for tribe.....	1,013 46	
incidental expenses.....	67 81	
		\$8,521 05

The vouchers herewith submitted will present a detailed exhibit of the various items of expenditure, as well as the method of distribution.

The funds derived from shore-rents of 1880, and distributed this year, are not included in the foregoing statement. The receipts from this source are :

1881, March. State warrant.....	\$1,167 00	
Balance from shore-rents, 1879 ..	94 00	
		\$1,261 00

## CONTRA.

Paid members of tribe, as per schedule	\$1,221 00	
Balance to shore-rent fund, 1881..	40 00	
		\$1,261 00

The appropriation of \$1,500 for the annual annuity, by reason of an unusual advance in the price of the commodities named in the treaty and required to be purchased and distributed, was not sufficient for the purpose; and upon representation of that fact to the Governor, authority was granted under chapter 9, section 5, of the revised statutes, to exceed the appropriation to the amount of \$128.35, as appears by the foregoing statement.

#### REPAIR OF CHAPEL.

This building has been repaired during the year, newly plastered throughout, new windows of a modern type substituted for the old, a porch and vestibule added to the building, and the whole generally renovated. The peculiar language of the resolve making an appropriation for this purpose made it apparent that \$300 was intended while but \$250 was actually available, to wit: "Two hundred and fifty dollars for repairs on chapel \* \* \* in addition to fifty dollars appropriated \* \* \* March 15, 1880, unexpended." But the \$50 of the preceding year's appropriations, "unexpended," had been covered into the treasury at the close of that year, and was no longer available for the purpose indicated, hence \$250 was the extent of funds granted. The attention of Governor and Council was called to this matter, with a statement that \$300 was the minimum sum for which the needed work could be done, and in pursuance thereof a warrant for \$300 was sent to me in July for the purpose, and was fully expended in executing the work.

It transpired, however, that this warrant for \$300 had been drawn in its entirety against the appropriations for the tribe, and these having been otherwise exhausted, a deficiency of \$50 is the result, as shown in the preceding statement. The Agent having expended the amount under the circumstances above detailed, your attention is respectfully called to the subject that you may provide for its reimbursement.

A small expenditure is still necessary to finish the work commenced, but it is believed that the necessary amount for this purpose can be taken without detriment from the general appropriation for the ensuing year, as are other contingent expenses. The church now presents a very attractive appearance, especially in its interior, and is very gratifying to the tribe.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The operations in this department were fairly successful this year. Not so large an acreage of potatoes as usual was planted, on account of the difficulty experienced in protecting the crop from the potato bug, but in other respects the usual activity was manifested.

The following is the aggregate of products raised, for which bounty was paid. Other crops were cultivated to some extent, but not being such as entitle to bounty, were not reported to this agency.

Potatoes.....	3,098 bushels.
Beans.....	324 “
Oats.....	977 “
Peas.....	62 “
Wheat.....	180 “
Buckwheat.....	10 “
Vegetables, all kinds.....	478 “

#### SCHOOLS.

Schools have been taught at each of the established places, and, so far as I have learned, with general satisfaction.

The increased appropriation of last year has given ample means for good schools of satisfactory length.

The school on Oldtown Island has been under the same competent instruction as heretofore,—the Sisters of Mercy having it in charge,—and the success of these untiring workers must be of great encouragement to them in their labor, so forbidding in many of its aspects.

## SISTERS OF MERCY.

What I said in my last report, relative to this institution, I could here repeat with increased emphasis. The experience of this year has more than confirmed the wisdom of the movement establishing this community among the tribe.

## CENSUS.

The annual census taken on the first Wednesday of January, A. D. 1881, shows the number of the tribe to be four hundred and sixteen.

## SHORES.

The leases of the shores which were rented in 1880 expire January 1, 1882. It will become necessary to re-let them after that date for such term as the Governor and Council shall decide upon, not exceeding five years. My opinion is, as business is at present conducted on this river, short terms are preferable.

## HEALTH.

The year has been especially disastrous to the health of the tribe. An unusual amount of sickness was apparent from the beginning, and the measles breaking out soon after created wide-spread distress; as this disease, which under the most favorable conditions is regarded with apprehension, soon developed its worst phases here, where in cold and comfortless dwellings the inmates are subjected to inevitable exposure. As a consequence, there was a great demand upon the Agency for aid—applications being continuous and urgent, requiring the most rigorous discrimination lest the funds be prematurely expended. The medical bills swelled to unwonted proportions, and but for the fact that some specific appropriations were not fully expended, leaving something to be applied to these general demands, a deficiency would have been unavoidable. As it is, some bills from necessity remain unpaid, not having been presented, and will fall upon the next year's appropriations; but it is believed

that with a year of average condition of the tribe, and with reasonable care, the appropriations already made will be sufficient to meet the demands that will be likely to arise. The number of deaths this year was twenty-four.

#### CONCLUSION.

As may be inferred from what has already been stated, the year has not been favorable to the prosperity of the tribe. Following the great amount of sickness and consequent distress spoken of, and as another illustration of the adage, "Misfortunes do not come singly," was a failure of the revenues usually resulting to the tribe from a mid-summer visitation to the various watering places along the Atlantic coast. Owing to unpropitious weather, it is well known there was a greatly diminished attendance at these resorts, and all who counted gains upon a large influx of summer population at such places were disappointed. The Indians shared in this common disaster, and, with this experience supplementing their other troubles, many were brought to need who had before been able to care for themselves and families.

The visit of the Governor and Council in October was peculiarly gratifying to the tribe, who attach a diplomatic significance to these official visitations, as importing governmental intercourse with them in their tribal or political character—a recognition of the time when, more powerful than now, they dictated treaties and compelled an acknowledgement of their rights.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. BAILEY,  
*Agent of Penobscot Indians.*