

1882

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

1882.

AUGUSTA:
SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1883.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Governor and Council of Maine :

I would respectfully submit my Report as Agent for the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, for the year ending November 30, 1882 :

The appropriations made for the year 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 Lieutenant-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
	\$5,690 00

The expenditures, which will be more fully shown in detail by my account with vouchers, were as follows, viz :

For May dividends.....	\$385 70
November dividends.....	327 60
Distressed and contingent poor.....	2,625 47

For Agricultural purposes	\$525 00
Bounty on crops.....	151 24
Ploughing.....	122 02
Salaries of Governors.....	71 00
Salaries of Lieutenant-Governors.....	42 00
Wood.....	226 00
Contingent expenses.....	138 33
Educational expenses.....	600 00
Salaries of Priests.....	100 00
Dressing for land.....	175 64
Salary of Agent.....	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,690 00
Amount due me on last settlement.....	\$100 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,790 00

RECEIPTS.

1881.				
Dec. 15.	Warrant on State Treasurer for bal..		\$100 00	
1882.				
Feb. 11.	" " "	2,000 00	
May 25.	" " "	2,000 00	
Nov. 27.	" " "	1,690 00	
			<hr/>	
			\$5,790 00	

The population of the tribe on the 1st of Nov. was.....546

An uncommon amount of sickness has prevailed among the tribe during the year, the number of deaths being thirty-four, which is double that of the year 1881, and exceeding that of any previous year for a long time. Among the deceased may be mentioned the venerable Selmor Francis, Governor of Pleasant Point, who died in December of gangrene; Peol Dana, a man who had developed more capacity for farming than perhaps any other in the tribe, who died in July; and John Newell, of Peter Dana's Point, extensively known by the sportsmen of New England as an honest and efficient guide, who died in June, all of them much respected by their acquaintances.

AGRICULTURAL.

There has not been the interest taken in this department that I would like to report. The Indians as a race are naturally averse to field labor, and their efforts in this direction are somewhat spasmodic. At Pleasant Point the scarcity of land is urged as an objection, and with much reason. The destructiveness of the potato bug has also discouraged their attempts in many instances. I have tried to urge upon them the importance of attending more particularly to their crops, instead of depending upon the scanty sustenance obtained by fishing and hunting. The crop this year was as follows :

Potatoes.....	1850 bushels.
Oats.....	325 "
Buckwheat.....	25 "
Beans and peas.....	115 "
Besides wheat, turnips, carrots, &c.	

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools continue to flourish under the care of the efficient teachers, Sisters Clare and Stanislaus. When it is considered that all the younger children are obliged to learn in what is to them a foreign language (as in their homes the Indian tongue is spoken exclusively, and they know no other), it can readily be seen that many difficulties have to be overcome by both teachers and pupils. Another disadvantage which they labor under is one which I noticed in my report of 1881, viz : Eighty children are crowded in a room which will accommodate but forty. I earnestly hope that the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300) asked for in that report may be appropriated for the purpose of enlarging the school house.

After a somewhat closely contested and exciting election, Noel L. Dana was elected as Governor of Pleasant Point for a term of two years, and Lewy Mitchell was elected as representative to the Legislature.

During the year some of the more enterprising Indians have built three good sized weirs for the purpose of catching

herring, for which they find a ready sale at the sardine works in Eastport. Although fish have not been very plenty, the owners have had a fair degree of success.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

As I stated in my report for the year 1881, there is an urgent necessity for the purchase of the remainder of the peninsular of Pleasant Point, containing one hundred acres, more or less, which I am informed can be obtained at a reasonable price, and I would recommend that an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) be made for that purpose, and a commission appointed to divide it into lots. As the Indian township is being rapidly sold to the whites, and will in all probability before long be almost entirely in their possession, I think this land should be purchased for them as an equivalent in part.

I would again recommend that an appropriation of three hundred dollars (\$300) be made for the enlargement of the school house at Pleasant Point, for reasons before stated.

Also, an appropriation of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the purchase of a new bell for the church at Pleasant Point, as the old one has been rendered unfit by long use. This would be used both as a church and school bell.

Also, an appropriation of one hundred dollars (\$100) for the churches, both at Pleasant Point and Peter Dana's Point, as they are leaky, and the foundations somewhat insecure, besides needing other repairs.

The same appropriations for the other purposes which were made by the last Legislature, I think will be sufficient for the ensuing year.

Respectfully,

C. H. PORTER,

Agent Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians.

CALAIS, November 30, 1882.

STATE OF MAINE.

In COUNCIL, December 29, 1882.

Received, accepted and ordered to be printed.

Attest:

JOSEPH O. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*