

1883

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 Tribe of Indians,

FOR THE YEAR

1883.

AUGUSTA :
SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1884.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Governor and Council of Maine:

I hereby respectfully submit my annual report as Agent of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians for the year ending November 30th, 1883.

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

For May dividends	\$400 00
distressed poor	2000 00
November dividends	300 00
agricultural purposes	600 00
bounty on crops	300 00
ploughing	150 00
salary of Governor	100 00
salary of Lieut. Governor	40 00
wood	200 00
contingent expenses	100 00
educational expenses	600 00
salary of Priest	100 00
dressing for land	100 00
salary of Agent	200 00
contingent poor fund	500 00
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	\$5,690.00

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

For May dividends	\$365 40
November dividends	299 40
distressed and contingent poor	2,786 72
agricultural purposes	510 00

For bounty on crop.....	\$ 99 55
ploughing	139 00
salaries of Governors.....	100 00
salaries of Lieut. Governors.....	40 00
wood	218 00
contingent purposes.....	88 55
educational purposes	600 00
salary of Agent	200 00
salaries of Priests.....	100 00
dressing for land.....	132 21
amount due on unpaid dividends.....	11 17
	<hr/>
	\$5,690 00

RECEIPTS.

1883. March, 19, by warrant on the State	
Treasurer.....	\$2,500 00
June 4, “ “.....	1,000 00
Aug. 23, “ “.....	1,000 00
Oct. 9, “ “.....	1,190 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,690 00

The population of the tribe November 1st was 532.

The health of the tribe during the year has been on the whole good. The number of deaths which have occurred was thirty-two (32) of which thirteen (13) were under the age of two years. Two deaths were caused by drowning. Among the adults consumption is the most prevalent disease, and owing to their ignorance of the rules of diet and want of proper nursing, its course is more rapid than among whites. The tendency to scrofula is also very common, quite a large proportion of the tribe bearing the scar caused by that disease.

AGRICULTURAL.

The crop of 1883 was as follows, viz :

Potatoes	1,200 bushels.
Oats	200 "
Beans.....	64 "
Turnips	50 "
Peas.....	25 "
Beets, Carrots, Onions, etc....	20 "

Total 1,559 bushels.

The influx of visitors to Campobello, Grand Manan, Bar Harbor and the other summer resorts along the coast, has tended to draw the attention of the Indians away from farming, and a large proportion of them spend the summer season at those places in selling baskets, gulls' breasts, canoes, etc. When the season is over they find in a great many cases that their expenses nearly, if not quite, equal their receipts, and in consequence they are in some instances obliged to call on the Agent for assistance during the winter, while their more fortunate neighbors, who have remained at home attending to their crops have raised enough to sustain their families without aid from the State.

EDUCATIONAL.

The school at Pleasant Point now numbers ninety-one (91) pupils. It is taught eight months in the year, and shows a marked improvement.

The pupils manifest a degree of intelligence fully equal to that of white children, and are much more easily controlled by the teachers.

The addition to the school-house built during the fall is used as a primary department. It is twenty-five (25) feet long by twenty-three (23) feet wide, and the two rooms can be thrown into one by means of sliding doors. The school-rooms now are quite comfortable, and we can look for a more

rapid improvement in the education of the rising generation.

The school at Peter Dana's Point is taught four months in the year and numbers about twenty-five (25) pupils. Sister Clare, who has had charge of the schools, was in August promoted by the Bishop of Maine to a higher station in some other locality, much to the regret of all who knew her, as her unassuming manner and earnest labors in behalf of the Indians had won their love and esteem. Her place however is well supplied by Sister Dominica of the same order, (Sisters of Mercy) who with Sister Stanislaus is still carrying on the good work with the same untiring zeal and devotion, following in the footsteps of their Lord and Master, in meekness and singleness of heart.

The Legislature authorized the expenditure of two thousand dollars (\$2000.00) for the purchase of land at Pleasant Point, a bell, and repairs on buildings. The Council in the exercise of their discretion did not deem it expedient to purchase the land. The repairs authorized by me have cost one thousand thirty-five dollars (\$1035.00). The amount I have assumed to pay toward the bell is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), the Indians having paid ninety dollars (\$90.00) toward it, and it is now hung in the tower. In addition to the work for which I contracted, repairs were made by virtue of an agreement with the Priests, and designed to furnish better accommodations for the Sisters, and also to provide a vestry for the church. The latter repairs for which the Priests are responsible, cost eight hundred and ninety dollars (\$890.00). It is a question for you to determine whether these bills should not be paid out of the Legislative appropriation. The repairs were necessary for the comfort of the Sisters to whose exertions the improvement in the condition of the Indians is largely due, and if the bills are not paid by the State, the Sisters are liable for two hundred dollars (\$200.00) of the same. I feel that their services are so beneficial, and compensation so slight that the State ought to pay for a comfortable home for them.

During my term of office I have noted a gradual improvement in the condition of the Indians, such as improving their buildings and surroundings, neatness in dress, an increase of self-respect, and less drunkenness. Some of their houses will compare favorably with those of their more pretentious white brethren. The example of the teachers and their quiet orderly ways have an influence over the younger portion, especially, of the tribe which cannot be otherwise than good, and although there are many who are intemperate in their habits, still the public sentiment in the tribe is strongly in favor of temperance. This is owing in a great measure to the zealous care and oversight of their Priests, the Rev. Fathers Conlan and O'Dowd, who visit them regularly and attend most faithfully to their moral and spiritual welfare.

At the election held in September, Tomah Joseph was elected Governor of Peter Dana's Point, and Mitchell Newell, Lient. Governor for the term of four years.

C. H. PORTER,

Agent Passamaquoddy Indians.

CALAIS, November 30, 1883.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, AUGUSTA, December 29, 1883.

Received, and the usual number of copies ordered to be printed.

Attest:

JOSEPH O. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*