


1883

Report of the Agent of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians

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Indian Agent, State of Maine

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REPORT OF THE AGENT

OF THE

Penobscot Tribe of Indians,

FOR THE YEAR

1883.

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

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, December 24, 1883.

Received, and 400 copies ordered printed.

ATTEST: JOSEPH O. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Governor and Executive Council:

As required by law, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of the Penobscot tribe of Indians, and expenditures in their behalf as per accompanying vouchers, for the year ending December 1, 1883.

Statement of receipts and expenditures:

RECEIPTS.

1883. March, State warrant.....	\$2,000.00	
April, " "	2,000.00	
August, " "	1,250.00	
October, " "	1,700.00	
December, " "	1,414.98	
		\$8,364.98
From S. Low rent Mexico Islands,		10.00
" J. Shedd " Boom "		2.00
		\$8,376.98

EXPENDITURES.

For agriculture.....	\$721.01
goods for annuity	1,488.58
bounty on crops.....	363.20
schools.....	599.50
salary of Agent.....	200.00
Supt. of farming.....	150.00
Governor of tribe.....	50.00
Lieut. Governor of tribe	30.00
Priest.....	100.00
goods for spring dividend.....	700.00

The following members of the tribe deserve special mention of their success this year, as indicated by the amount of crops set against their names :

	Potatoes	Oats	Wheat	Beans	Peas	Vegetables	Hay
	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.	Tons.
Stephen Stanislaus.....	100	275	75	20	20	20	30
Joseph Dana.....	105	40	20	15	-	3	-
John Attian.....	220	-	10	10	-	6	18
Frances Andrews.....	100	50	-	10	10	16	-
Joseph Nicolai.....	225	-	20	15	40	175	-
Tomekin Ranco.....	200	100	-	10	25	60	15
Joseph Francis.....	150	-	-	10	20	25	10
Newell Lyon.....	150	-	-	2	1	-	-

SCHOOLS.

Schools have been taught at the usual places. The money appropriated has been fully expended, and the reports from the schools indicate a satisfactory progress. On Oldtown island the Sisters of Mercy have continued in charge of the school and a full year of instruction has been given, for which the amount appropriated for that island (\$400) has been paid.

The school authorities of Greenbush and Lincoln have drawn upon me for the amounts expended by them and their orders have been paid.

SISTERS OF MERCY.

This community have added another year to their labors with the tribe, with increasingly good results. The moral and educational effect of their work is becoming more apparent as the years pass by. Among the younger members of the tribe, those in the formative period of character, this effect is especially noticeable. The prospect that this institution is permanently located in the tribe affords a hopeful and encouraging view of their future.

RELIGIOUS WELFARE.

An appropriation is annually made for maintaining religious services in the tribe.

Rev. F. X. Trudel, the parish priest of Oldtown and vicinity, has the tribe within his charge, and has been attentive to their spiritual interests.

Through his regular ministrations, supplemented by the daily chapel services of the Sisters of Mercy, their religious obligations and duties have been kept prominently before them.

CENSUS.

The enumeration of the tribe as returned to me this year by the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, whose duty it is by law to make the same, shows the whole number to be four hundred. Their report is herewith submitted.

SHORES.

All leases of shores belonging to the tribe expire with this year, and it will become the duty of the agent of the tribe to re-let the same early in the coming year. The advice of the Governor and Council upon this subject will be sought at the proper time. The present total rental of the shores is \$1,484, and is very low. I would suggest that a minimum price be fixed upon the shores at which all bidding shall commence.

LAND TITLES.

By chapter 137, Public Laws 1883, provision was made for a commission to examine the titles of all individual members of the tribe to lands upon the reservation claimed by them, and to establish and confirm to those equitably entitled a good and indefeasible right thereto, subject only to State interference. The commissioners appointed by the Governor and Council under this act, have been engaged at such times and places through the season as their duties required, and now have their work, as I am informed, well advanced toward completion.

HEALTH.

The tribe has been remarkably free from severe sicknesses this year and there has been no appearance of contagious or epidemic disorders. There have been fewer deaths than for many years, the whole number of burials being twelve against thirty-five last year.

Of these five were infants, surviving their birth but a short time. The oldest member of the tribe, John Penewate, 87 years old, appears in this year's mortuary list. The causes of death are as follows: consumption, 2; fever, 1; heart disease, 1; pneumonia, 1; puerperal convulsions, 1; senility, 1; want of vitality (infants), 5.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been one of reasonable prosperity to the tribe. The freedom from sickness above mentioned has greatly lessened their burdens, and the revenues from their various sources of employment have been fairly compensatory.

Some improvements have been made upon their dwellings and a growing interest is evinced in the matter of home adornments.

The visit of the Governor and Council in October was an event of great interest to the tribe, and the commendations expressed by the visiting officials of their condition and prosperity has given them a just pride in their progress, and will, I doubt not, prove most salutary in stimulating their self-respect and in making them ambitious for further advancement.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES A. BAILEY,

Agent of Penobscot Indians.

OLDTOWN, Dec. 1, 1883.