

1884

Report of the Agents 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

1884.



AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1885.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, December 30, 1884.

Received, and ordered that 500 copies be printed.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH O. SMITH, *Secretary of State.*

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Governor and Executive Council:

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 November 30, 1884.

Statement of receipts and expenditures:

RECEIPTS.

1884. February, State warrant.....	\$1,000.00	
March, " "	800.00	
May, " "	2,500.00	
June, " "	600.00	
October, " "	3,300.00	
December, " "	451.81	
	<hr/>	\$8,651.81
From old buildings sold.....		25.00
" rent Boom Islands.....		2.00
		<hr/>
		\$8,678.81

EXPENDITURES.

For agriculture	\$691.59
bounty on crops.....	368.80
goods for annuity	1,507.27
schools	565.00
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	\$ 567.00
support of poor, sick, etc.....	2,292.62
medicines and medical attendance..	297.76
burial expenses	292.07
wood for tribe	1,131.00
incidental expenses.....	130.35
repair of church	305.35
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	\$8,678.81

The following statement shows the appropriations for the year compared with the amount drawn against the same :

APPROPRIATIONS.

Chapter 97, page 130, Resolves 1883.

Amount, interest Indian Trust Fund.....	\$4,429.70
annuity	1,700.00
agriculture	700.00
bounty on crops.....	450.00
schools.....	600.00
salary of Agent.....	200.00
Superintendent of farming.....	150.00
Governor of tribe	50.00
Lieut. Governor of tribe	30.00
Priest.....	100.00
repairs of church.....	300.00
	<hr/>
	\$8,709.70
Amount of warrants as above	8,651.81
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Amount unexpended balance	\$57.89

The foregoing statements do not include the distribution of shore-rents of 1883 under special act, chapter 267, laws of 1873.

The receipts from this source were :

1884, February. State warrant	\$1,484.00
Balance from last year.....	12.45
	<hr/>
	\$1,496.45

CONTRA.

Distribution per capita to members of tribe as per schedule.....	\$1,479.01
Balance to next year.....	17.44
	————— \$1,496.45

AGRICULTURE.

The season was not favorable for success in this department. The planting season was very wet, and operations were necessarily delayed until the lateness of the season prevented many from doing but little more than making their customary gardens. There were also some early frosts which blighted the late planted crops before they had matured, causing quite a loss to some who had persevered in overcoming the adverse circumstances attending planting. Notwithstanding these difficulties, however, some very good crops were grown.

The aggregate products of the tribe, so far as reported to the agency, are as follows:

Potatoes.....	3450 bushels
Oats.....	855 "
Beans.....	280 "
Peas.....	117 "
Wheat.....	40 "
Buck-wheat.....	145 "
Vegetables, all kinds.....	1052 "

There are some very intelligent farmers in the tribe, and the success which attends their labors is becoming an incentive to others, who have hitherto been disposed to regard the subject of farming with indifference.

SCHOOLS.

Schools on Oldtown and Mattanawcook Islands have been taught to the full extent of the appropriations. On Olamon Island there are but a few families, and owing to the most of them leaving early in the season, and not returning until too late in the fall to open a school, there were but a few weeks

of school taught in the spring. The schools have continued to be conducted as heretofore—that on Oldtown Island by the Sisters of Mercy, and those up river, under the supervision of the school authorities of Greenbush and Lincoln, within which towns they are located.

SISTERS OF MERCY.

Another year of service by these faithful workers has been added to their record. The progress of the school under their charge is very gratifying, and from a moral view, their labors are attended with hopeful results.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Regular services have been conducted through the year by Rev. F. X. Trudel, the priest in charge, who proves himself a faithful and efficient pastor, and the appropriation for this purpose has been placed in his hands. Chapel services, by the Sisters of Mercy, have also been continued daily, affording the devout and spiritually minded ample opportunity for worship and communion.

REPAIR OF CHAPEL.

An appropriation having been made for this purpose, the same was expended this year. A new foundation wall was laid under the entire structure, the roof newly shingled, and new gutters and conductors put upon the building, the aggregate expense of which will appear in the table of expenditures.

ELECTION.

The regular biennial election of the tribe was held on Oldtown Island on the first Tuesday of October—the time designated by law. The Old Party having the right of choice at this election, Stephen Stanislaus was chosen Governor of the tribe, Saul Neptune, Lieutenant Governor, and Joseph Nicolas, Representative to the Legislature.

CENSUS.

The annual enumeration of the tribe made by the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, who are charged by

law with this duty, shows the number at the beginning of the year to be four hundred and seven.

SHORES.

All leases of shores having expired last year, it became necessary to re-let them early this season. And after duly advertising the same they were leased, on the 16th of April, for a term of five years from January 1, 1884. The letting was characterized by a very marked advance over that of recent years, resulting in an aggregate yearly rental of \$3,933.

LAND TITLES.

The Commissioners appointed under chapter 137, Public Laws 1883, to examine the titles of all individual members of the tribe to lands on the reservation, and establish the same, completed their labors early in the year, and a copy of their report was returned to me. By sections five and six of said chapter, the Agent is charged with the duty of issuing certificates of title to the several members, in accordance with this report. He is also to make duplicate records of all such certificates, as well as of the Commissioners' report, with suitable indexes. This duty, involving labor equivalent to the writing of about two thousand deeds, I have not been able fully to complete, but have the matter in such a state of preparation as to give promise of its early conclusion. By the services of this commission, and the supplemental proceedings on the part of the Agent in issuing certificates of title, and making complete records of the same, the land-system of the tribe is placed on a substantial and intelligible basis. All incipient controversies arising out of the former imperfect system have been adjusted and settled, and hereafter all titles may be readily traced and the ownership of each lot determined, from records, both in the county registry and in the office of the Agent of the tribe. It is believed that the results accomplished by these proceedings, and to flow from them, fully justify the wisdom of the measure.

HEALTH.

There has been considerable sickness in the tribe during the year, resulting generally from ordinary causes, there having been no contagious or epidemic disorders. The number of deaths has been considerably above the average yearly mortality, twenty-seven having died during the year. Of these, ten were children and seventeen adults, and of the latter, ten were males and seven females. The prevalent cause of death in these cases is pulmonary consumption, twelve of the seventeen adults having died of this disease. Five members of the tribe died away from home: one at Richmond, in this State, (killed); one at Old Orchard; one at North Conway, N. H., and two in New Brunswick. The expense attending the preparation and removal of these bodies from the points named to Oldtown for interment, has largely increased the expenditure for burial purposes, as will be seen in the tabulated statement at the opening of this report.

CONCLUSION.

The year, upon the whole, has hardly proved to be one of more than ordinary success. The unfavorable planting season, and later, the dullness of sea-side traffic, upon which they largely depend, materially affected their current resources. These circumstances, in connection with the large amount of sickness and consequent deaths, already alluded to, caused unavoidable embarrassments. Under these conditions, the agency has rendered such help as the state of the appropriations would justify, and it is believed that severe suffering has been, in a large degree, prevented.

CHARLES A. BAILEY,

Agent of Penobscot Indians.

December 1, 1884.