

1885

Report of the Agents 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

— 1885 —

AUGUSTA:
SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1886.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Governor and Council:

I herewith present my Report as Agent of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians for the year ending November 30th, 1885.

The appropriations made by the Legislature for the years 1885 and 1886 were as follows, viz:

For May dividends	\$500 00
November dividends	500 00
distressed poor.....	3,000 00
bounty on crops.....	300 00
ploughing	150 00
salary of Governor	100 00
salary of Lieut. Governor	40 00
wood	300 00
contingent purposes.....	150 00
educational purposes	600 00
salary of Priest	200 00
dressing for land	150 00
salary of Agent	200 00
agricultural purposes.....	600 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,790 00
For repairs on church and school-house at Peter Dana's Point for 1885	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,090 00

P14098

The expenditures were as follows :

For May dividends	\$364 70
November dividends	359 10
distressed poor.....	3,529 10
bounty on crops.....	198 45
ploughing	156 50
salaries of Governors	100 00
salaries of Lieut. Governors	40 00
wood	230 15
contingent purposes.....	127 41
educational purposes	600 00
salary of Priest	200 00
dressing for land	168 59
salary of Agent	200 00
agricultural purposes.....	516 00
repairs on church and school-house.....	257 97
balance due for repairs	42 03
	\$7,090 00

RECEIPTS.

March 9, received warrant on State Treasurer....	\$3,000 00
May 29, " " " "	2,000 00
Sept. 25, " " " "	2,090 00
	\$7,090 00

The population of the tribe Nov. 1st was five hundred thirty-one.

The number of deaths during the year was twenty-four, of which twenty were under ten years of age. The death rate for the year has been larger than that of any previous year within my observation, with one exception. Measles of a malignant type was prevalent during the winter among the young, and in many cases proved fatal.

In accordance with directions from Dr. Young, Secretary of the State Board of Health, I have caused the tribe to be vaccinated, and, with a few exceptions, they have readily submitted to the operation.

AGRICULTURE.

The crop raised this year is as follows, viz :

Potatoes	2,043
Oats	557
Beans	140
Turnips.....	120
Peas, carrots, onions, etc	53
Wheat	20
	2,933 bush.

The above figures show an increase of twenty per cent over the crop of last year, and the hope expressed in my report has been fulfilled. In fact, quite an improvement has been shown by the Indians in this respect, especially by those living at Peter Dana's Point, who have exerted themselves in a truly praiseworthy manner in clearing and cultivating land. Those living at Pleasant Point would make a far better showing in agricultural pursuits if they had more land to cultivate.

REPAIRS.

The appropriation of three hundred dollars granted by the Legislature has been expended in part on the church at Peter Dana's Point, which has now a small and neat bell-tower in place of a shaky and leaky spire. The Rev. O. M. Conlan has been reimbursed for his expenditures on the house occupied by the teachers. The school-house has been repaired to some extent, but further repairs will be needed next summer, for which purpose I have reserved the balance of the appropriation.

EDUCATIONAL.

The schools are carried on as heretofore, by the Sisters of Mercy. The pupils are comparatively studious, and show a degree of proficiency which is surprising to all who are aware of the disadvantages under which they labor. Sister Clare,

who has had the charge of the schools for the past five or six years, has been transferred to the new convent in Calais, and is now Mother Superior of that institution.

The schools are now taught by Sisters Adelaide and Berchmans, who are carrying on the good work with the same spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice that characterized their predecessors.

I would respectfully call your attention to the need of some method of enforcing the laws in the Indian villages. They have now no one who has any legal authority whatever. Not being citizens they do not come under the laws of towns regulating their own affairs. They need police or constabulary in each village, not only to preserve order, but to prevent the sale of liquor. The Indians are strongly impressed by the majesty of the law, and their respect for its officers is profound. Although, generally, quiet reigns in their villages, still there are occasions when something more forcible than moral suasion is required. They feel the need of it themselves, and a number of them have requested me to see what could be done in the matter. I would recommend that the Governor and Council appoint a State constable in each village with authority to call upon any Indian or white man for assistance when occasion requires. I would also recommend that authority be given to build a small lock-up in each of the two villages as means of further protection to the law-abiding portion of the communities.

In my report of last year I stated that "the islands in the St. Croix River originally granted to the tribe were taken from them because of prior grants made by Massachusetts, and they had never received any compensation therefor." Not being versed in the legal aspect of the case, I will not venture any recommendations in regard to it, but will leave the matter to your disposal, with the hope that if the State of Massachusetts, through misapprehension of the facts, or otherwise, by a solemn treaty with the Passamaquoddy Indians, did grant to them islands which she had previously sold, representations

to that effect will be made to the proper authorities, and such measures adopted as will secure to the Indians their treaty rights.

Respectfully,

C. H. PORTER,

Agent Passamaquoddy Indians.

CALAIS, December 28, 1885.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, December 29, 1885.

Ordered, That the report of C. H. Porter, Agent of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians, be accepted, and that 500 copies be printed for the use of the Council.

IN COUNCIL, December 29, 1885.

Read and passed by the Council and by the Governor approved.

ORAMANDAL SMITH,
Secretary of State.