

1887

Report of the Agents 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

— 1887 —



AUGUSTA:

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1888.

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Governor and the Executive Council.

The following report of the condition of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians, and expenditures in their behalf, with accompanying vouchers, is herewith submitted for the year ending November 30, 1887 :

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Receipts.

1887, March, State Warrant.....	\$2,000 00
“ “	500 00
May, “	2,000 00
August, “	1,000 00
September, “	2,050 00
November, “	900 00
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	\$8,450 00

Expenditures.

For Agriculture	\$677 46
Bounty on crops	368 98
Goods for annuity	1,387 40
Schools.....	600 00
Salary of Agent	200 00
“ Sup't of farming.....	150 00
“ Governor of Tribe	50 00
“ Lieut. Governor of Tribe,	40 00
“ Priest	100 00
Spring dividend	473 33

For Medicine and medical attendance...	\$624 81
Burial expenses.....	87 42
Wood for Tribe	1,187 55
Making land records	157 40
Incidental expenditures	97 74
Hose for engine	87 16
Cemetery fence	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,421 89
Unexpended in hands of Agent.....	28 11
	<hr/>
	\$8,450 00

The following are the appropriations for 1887, as per chapter 67, Resolves of 1887 :

Amount, interest Indian Trust Fund....	\$4,429 70
Annuity	1,700 00
Agriculture.....	700 00
Bounty on crops	350 00
Schools	600 00
Salary of Agent.....	200 00
" Sup't of farming ...	150 00
" Governor of Tribe..	50 00
" Lieut. Governor of	
Tribe.....	40 00
" Priest	100 00
Hose for engine	90 00
Cemetery fence ..	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,484 70
Amount of expenditures as above.....	\$8,421 89
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriations unexpended.....	\$62 81

This statement shows an unexpended balance of \$62.81, partly in hands of the agent and partly undrawn from treasury. I would recommend that this entire balance be applied to the building of the cemetery fence, for which a small appropriation was made by the Legislature, but which proved barely

adequate to purchase material, leaving the construction of the fence to be otherwise provided for.

The foregoing statement of receipts and expenditures does not include the distribution of shore-rents of 1886, made this year under Special Act, chapter 267, Laws of 1873.

The receipts from this source were :

1887, March, State Warrant	\$3,913 00	
Balance from last year,	125 44	
	<hr/>	\$4,038 44

CONTRA.

Distribution <i>per capita</i> to members of the tribe as per schedule.....	\$4,020 50	
Balance to next year.....	17 94	
	<hr/>	\$4,038 44

AGRICULTURE.

The ordinary amount of farming was done by the tribe this year, with fair success. The Agency has furnished ploughing and team-work, seed and fertilizers, the Indians doing the work.

The aggregate products were as follows :

Potatoes	4460 bushels.
Beans	248 "
Peas.....	126 "
Oats.....	585 "
Buckwheat	30 "
Vegetables	834 "

SCHOOLS.

The schools have been taught at the usual places, and the appropriation for school purposes has been fully expended.

At Oldtown, the school is in charge of the Sisters of Mercy, and with the exception of a small outlay for repairs upon the school house, the appropriation for Oldtown Island school has been paid to them. This school has done good work and I

desire to commend the teachers for their faithful and self-sacrificing labor, not merely in the school, but in behalf of the tribe generally, for whose welfare their efforts have been untiring.

The schools on Mattanawcook and Olamon islands are by law under the charge of the supervisors of schools in the towns of Lincoln and Greenbush respectively, and at each point a spring and fall term was taught, the appropriation for each being about equally divided between the two terms.

CENSUS.

The annual enumeration of the tribe was made on the first Wednesday of January, 1887, by the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, as required by law, and shows the number to be 380.

There were twelve deaths during the period covered by this report, and seven births. Two were added from the Passamaquoddy tribe by intermarriage; making a net loss of three for the year.

The diminution of the tribe here indicated is but another year's results added to the reduction constantly going on, and to which allusion has been made in former reports.

The death-rate has, however, been less the past year than for several years preceding it, as the percentage of mortality has been little more than three per cent against about seven per cent in 1886, five per cent in 1885, and nearly seven per cent in 1884.

HEALTH.

There have been no prevalent disorders in the tribe, except at Mattanawcook, where the measles have spread quite generally; but the demand for medical attendance has been greater than ever before, in any one year.

In former years the Indian idea of pathology was adequately met by the simple remedies furnished by nature, administered by native doctors, but that period has practically passed, and

the services of the best medical practitioners of the communities in the vicinity of the tribe, are in daily requisition. As this demand is a constantly increasing one, and is a charge upon the funds appropriated for the benefit of the tribe, it is becoming a serious question to what extent this demand should be met by the Agent, and how and in what way it can be limited.

IN GENERAL.

The year has been more than ordinarily favorable to the tribe in a material sense.

There was ample opportunity for labor at log-driving during the spring and early summer at good wages, and as the Indians are expert drivers their services are always in demand for that class of labor. The summer at the seaside generously added to their supply of cash, and basket-making has been fairly profitable throughout the year.

There have been marked indications of progress in the improvement of houses and home surroundings, and in matters of public concern a spirit of amity and good feeling has prevailed between the different parties. The intense factional spirit of the past, so prolific of jealousy, distrust and ill-will, has in a large degree disappeared, and a disposition to harmonize upon matters affecting their public and political welfare has been generously manifested.

CHARLES A. BAILEY,

Agent of Penobscot Indians.

December, 1887.