

1891

# Report of the Agents of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians

H. C. Munson

*Indian Agent, State of Maine*

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REPORT OF AGENT

OF THE

Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians,

FOR THE YEAR

1891.



AUGUSTA:

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1892.

STATE OF MAINE.

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COUNCIL CHAMBER, December 31, 1891.

Presented, accepted and usual number of copies ordered printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Secretary of State.*

## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Governor and Council of the State of Maine:*

GREETING:—I hereby submit my report as agent of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians for the year ending November 30, 1891.

By a resolve of the Legislature of the State of Maine seven thousand six hundred and ninety dollars (\$7,690) was appropriated for the benefit of the tribe. To be expended for the following purposes, viz :

For May dividends.....	\$500 00
November dividends.....	500 00
distressed poor.....	3,200 00
bounty on crops.....	200 00
ploughing land.....	150 00
wood.....	500 00
dressing for land.....	150 00
contingent purposes.....	150 00
educational purposes.....	600 00
salary of priests.....	200 00
salary of Governors.....	100 00
salary of Lieutenant Governor.....	40 00
salary of Agent.....	200 00
basket ash.....	100 00
agricultural purposes.....	600 00
building.....	500 00
Total appropriation . . . . .	7,690 00
Overdrawn to 1892.....	8 42
	\$7,698 42

P14000

I have expended the appropriation as follows :

Overdrawn from 1890 ; vouchers in 1890 report,	\$231 25
For May dividends.....	394 40
November dividends .....	384 66
distressed poor.....	3,257 98
bounty on crops.....	135 23
ploughing land.....	150 00
wood.....	538 83
dressing.....	207 00
contingent purposes.....	160 00
educational purposes.....	600 00
salary of Priest.....	200 00
salary of Governor.....	100 00
salary of Lieutenant Governors.....	40 00
salary of Agent.....	200 00
basket ash.....	107 07
agricultural purposes.....	492 00
building.....	500 00
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Total expenditure.....	\$7,698 42

I have received from the State Treasurer as follows :

April 21, warrant.....	\$1,000 00
June 11,     “ .....	1,000 00
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	2,000 00
Balance due Agent from appropriation.....	\$5,690 00

#### POPULATION.

The population of the tribe at the present time is five hundred and eighteen (518).

The number of deaths during the year was thirty-seven (37).

#### ACCIDENTS.

Sopiel Dana was drowned at Calais while making an attempt to escape arrest.

Peter Francis was killed on the St. Croix and Penobscot R. R., October 30.

## ELECTIONS.

At the elections at Pleasant Point, September 28, and Peter Dana's Point, September 30, the following officers of the tribe were elected: Peter J. Newell, P. D. Point Governor; Wallace Lewy, P. D. Point Lieut. Governor.

## BUILDINGS.

The building appropriation has been expended to the best possible advantage. Rev. John O'Dowd, the resident priest at Eastport, made the following proposition: Seeing that the appropriation alone was not sufficient to properly repair the buildings, that I furnish lumber to the full amount of the appropriation and he would find means to pay for the labor, and by so doing the buildings have been repaired and put in a condition to stand many years without further repairs.

The following is a letter from Father O'Dowd, which will show exactly what has been done.

EASTPORT, Maine, December 17, 1891.

H. C. MUNSON,

*Dear Sir*—In reply to your note of the 14th inst. I am unable to tell exactly what the repairs on each of the public buildings at Pleasant Point cost.

The three carpenters were hired by the day and worked as the weather gave them a chance, now upon one building and now upon another. When it was dry and during fine weather they worked on the outside of the building, and when stormy, they worked on the inside. They were faithful workmen, lost no time, and frequently worked over time without extra charge.

I enclose a schedule giving the amount of the different bills. I have vouchers and receipted bills for all work and materials. However, the carpenter's bill, Mr. Creary's, I have not yet paid. I expect to pay that also before the middle of January. I will give you a brief statement of what we have accomplished since last summer.

The school-house has been raised two feet, new sills put under it well fixed on posts, and for the most part re-shingled. A new chimney has been built in it. The hall has been re-shingled where it needed it and repaired to some extent.

The church has been shingled, the walls repaired and the foundation made more secure. Two chimneys have been built in it and other repairs made in the interior. A French roof has been built on the sisters' house and the L building adjoining repaired. These improvements give to the sisters a neat, commodious and habitable dwelling. I have also put in a "Gurney Hot Water Heater" into the sisters' house at my own expense. The cost of the apparatus as you see by the schedule, was \$363.37. It has taken every cent I had in the world to do this work and I still owe \$376 dollars to Thomas Creary.

Statement of expenditures for labor and material on the public buildings at Pleasant Point :

Raising school-house two feet, new silling and posting it.....	\$40 00
Thomas Creary's bill, carpenter's work.....	376 00
Solmon Louis, carpenter.....	20 00
Mason work, Gilligan & Varney.....	45 00
Mason's tender, Peter Selmor.....	17 65
Painter, Aselmo Sapiel.....	9 00
Wadsworth & Son, material, such as windows, doors, moulding, nails, oil, turpentine, locks, lime, cement, etc.....	147 41
Hinckley & Co., zinc, piping, etc.....	20 68
J. Anderson, laths and plank.....	5 78
White lead and pigments.....	28 00
Three thousand brick, Cal. Gardner.....	27 00
L building given for laying 25 M. shingles.....	25 00
	<hr/>
	761 52
Gurney Hot Water Heater put into sisters' house,	363 37
	<hr/>
	\$1,124 89

## HEALTH AND GENERAL CONDITION.

The general health of the Indians at Pleasant Point has not been as good this year as in other years. The "rash" has been epidemic and several have died of it; among them some of the more promising scholars in the school. It will probably linger in the village for many months.

The condition of the Indians is not as hopeful and prosperous as it would have been if the health of the community had been better. The rash has undermined the support of families.

The Indians have a determination to better the condition of their dwellings. Some have built themselves new houses during the past year. Others have made their little homes more comfortable. All have made manifest a spirit of progress and improvement.

Probably the extensive repairs made on the public buildings at Pleasant Point acted as a stimulus to their efforts for better things.

## SCHOOLS.

The Sisters are very much gratified by the gradual improvement in the deportment and application of the Indian school children.

The scholars are becoming more interested in their lessons and show an earnest desire to learn. Parents now hesitate to keep their children a single day from school. They are at length impressed with the idea that they must co-operate with the sisters in order to make the work of education effectual.

Sister Rose deserves high praise for her constant vigilance over the conduct of the young people both at Pleasant and Peter Dana's point. Her efforts also to train the Indian brass band should not pass uncomplimented.

## MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

I employed Dr. J. C. Rodgers of Pembroke to attend the Indians at Pleasant Point at a salary of one hundred and fifty

dollars (\$150) per year. He began July 1st and I have paid him fifty dollars (\$50) or to November 1st. I believe this to be the most economical plan.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would recommend an appropriation sufficient to reimburse Father O'Dowd for his expenditures on public buildings. He has made a great self denial and I am knowing to the fact that he has expended his entire salary for the benefit of the tribe and run himself into debt beside.

Respectfully submitted this 26th day of December, 1891.

H. C. MUNSON.