

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1861.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1861.

REPORTS

OF THE

INDIAN AGENTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

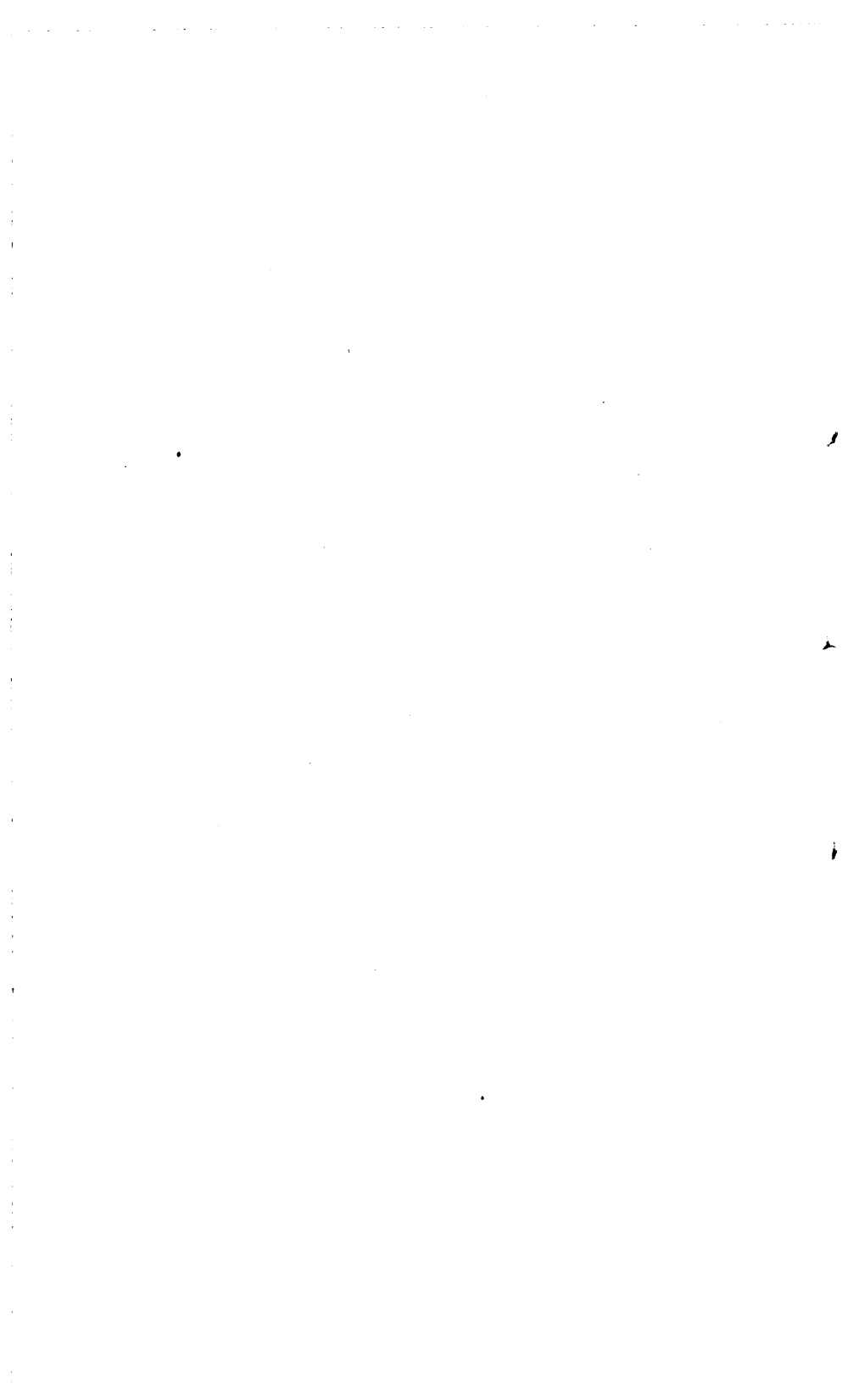
1860.



AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1860.



John Dougherty, bill for services on Public Farm, to	
Dec. 14, 1860, - - - - -	196 00
Tools and supplies for Public Farm, - - -	52 13
Salary of Agent, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ months, - - - -	384 38
Bounties on crops, - - - - -	697 05
	<hr/>
	\$5916 82

The appropriations made by the Legislature of 1860, were as follows:

Interest on fund, - - - - -	2970 00
Annuities, - - - - -	1600 00
John Neptune, - - - - -	25 00
Agricultural purposes - - - - -	650 00
	<hr/>
Total, - - - - -	\$5245 00

It will be perceived that the expenditures exceed the appropriations by the sum of \$675 82. But deducting the salary of the Agent and Superintendent, which comes directly from the State, the expenditures, including the bounties paid but which do not become due until January next, amount to the sum of \$5236 44.

In connection with this branch of my report I would suggest for your consideration, whether or not the Legislative appropriations have hitherto been made in conformity with the requirements of the Treaty of 1820, and in strict justice to the tribe. The treaty of Mass., of 1818, ratified by the State of Maine in 1820,

(See Acts and Resolves of Maine, 1843.)—"stipulate that the "tribe shall be provided with a discrete man of good moral character and industrious habits, to instruct them in the art of husbandry, and assist in fencing and tilling their grounds, raising "such articles of production as their lands are suited for, and as "will be most beneficial for them."

The State by that treaty, is as fully charged for the expenses of the Superintendent, as with the annuities, and is so recognized by the Legislative acts, from the year 1835 to the present time. But so far as I can learn, no special appropriations have ever been made to meet this treaty liability. But, on the contrary, it has hitherto been a charge on the fund raised by the sale of the four townships, made long after. In spite of the express covenant of the State with the Indians, when she received the proceeds of that sale, that it "should be deposited in the State Treasury, and the interest should annually be paid, under the direction of the Gov-

ernor and Council of the State, through the Indian Agent, for the benefit of said tribe, provided it should in their opinion be required for the comfortable support of said tribe."

See Acts and Resolves of 1843, as above reported.

The contract then goes on to stipulate that if the interest should not be wanted for said purpose it should be added to the principal and form an accumulated fund, and forever remain in the treasury as such.

The contract therefore manifestly limits the use of the interest to comfortable support of the tribe.

It is therefore respectfully suggested that the service of the Superintendent should hereafter be a special item of appropriation.

As the resolve of 1860 calls for a report of the present condition of the Indians connected with the agency, it may be convenient to arrange my statements in regard to them under different heads.

POPULATION OF THE TRIBE.

According to the census returned to me, and which accompanies my report, and to which I respectfully refer, it appears the tribe numbers 525.

All payments made to the members of the tribe, except bounties, have been per capita. According to the list, from the census it appears that the number of the tribe has not materially changed for the last forty years; they have increased rather than diminished; this may be accounted for in part, by their intermarriage with other tribes and the French.

EDUCATION.

By a resolve of March, 1860, the sum of \$350 was appropriated for maintaining schools among the tribe. \$250 of this was to be expended under the direction of the Superintending School Committee of Old Town, and the balance by the School Committee of the town of Lincoln. The resolve provides for a return of those Committees on this behalf, to be made to the Secretary of State.

I have therefore no means at hand to give an accurate statement of the schools. I am able to speak of the school at Old Town somewhat in detail, it being under my more immediate observation.

The school commenced on Old Town Island, under the care of a female instructor, May 14th, and closed October 12th; during this

time the school was interrupted about two weeks, by a case of varioloid among the tribe, on the Island.

Whole number of scholars,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
Average number,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 $\frac{3}{4}$

Whole time of instruction, about 20 weeks.

The ages of scholars vary from five to twenty-four years.—Eight being above twenty years. The average attendance in the county is about sixty-seven per cent, showing that this school falls but little short in attendance of the schools for white children.

The studies of the school have been confined to reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic and geography. The school books being of the kind in general use. The progress of the school so far as I am informed, and from observation, has been encouraging, and the mode of instruction quite satisfactory to the Indians.

The advance made by the scholars indicates a capacity for learning and comprehending the useful branches of education.

The school at Lincoln, from the best information I have, will compare favorably with the school at Old Town. On the whole I have no hesitation in saying that the money has been judiciously expended, and the result of the school fully answers all reasonable expectations, and justifies legislative appropriations; let the system adopted be continued, and it will be a powerful means of improving the language, elevating the character and improving the condition of this people.

AGRICULTURE.

About two-thirds of the tribe reside on Old Town Island, and immediate vicinity, the rest are scattered on the islands above, a distance of thirty-five miles. About one hundred are engaged more or less in working on the land. They raise corn, wheat, oats, barley, buck-wheat, potatoes, beans, peas and the common vegetables.

A large portion of the grass is sold while standing, the proceeds of which helps support them; their stock of cattle is small. Their crops, the past season, were good, and the attention to agriculture better than in former years. They have manifested quite a spirit of emulation in this branch of labor.

In former years, as the census will show, the members of the tribe in large numbers, have scattered away in the spring before

planting, and return late in the fall, only in time to draw their dividends or dispose of the same. The lands were abandoned or left to be cultivated by those remaining at home. As might be supposed, those who wandered off gained but a scanty subsistence, and in many instances have required aid, from the different localities in which they were found, and in the end causing an expense on their account, if allowed, wholly disproportioned to their individual claims on the common fund.

To avoid this, and believing it to be for the interest of the tribe generally, I have encouraged locality and a love of home. When I came into this agency, and observed the labors of the Indians on the land, it was quite apparent they had been accustomed to rely, in the majority of cases, upon those who were employed to plow and harrow their lands, to do their sowing and planting also, making but little exertion to help themselves.

In such cases, which have come to my knowledge, I have induced them to take part in the work, and thus gain the information requisite for the cultivation of their own lands with the assistance of the teachings furnished by the State.

I am satisfied that every attempt practicable should be made to induce them to till the soil and labor at home; this cannot be done at once, but will require time, and should be persevered in, and receive due legislative encouragement; but to a people naturally indolent and impatient of labor, particular inducements to industry should be held out; aware of this the State has wisely held out a system of bounties, which, if properly carried out, will do more than anything else, in the present condition of the Indians, to make them an industrious and thrifty people. The difference between the bounty policy and mere donation is quite apparent. The former is an incentive to industry, the latter fosters idleness. In this department I have endeavored to conform as near as possible to the letter and meaning of the bounty law; for my particular doings therein I refer to my account herewith submitted.

The Act of 1835 provides that a "suitable tract of land be allotted for a farm on which to keep the old Indians, invalids and orphan children who are unable to support themselves." In obedience to this act the Public Farm was established on Orson Island. As some doubts have been expressed as to the utility of this farm, I have endeavored to give the matter all the attention that my other engagements would admit. When I entered upon the duties of

my agency I found the buildings in a very dilapidated state, and the soil very much exhausted. The man I found in charge of the farm, having made engagements elsewhere, left in the April following, when I secured the services of a competent person, who took charge of the farm and has remained on it since. I found on the farm one yoke of oxen, some farming tools, 24 bushels potatoes,—(which being of an inferior quality I sold and purchased better for seed),—ten tons of hay, and six bushels buck-wheat. Besides the usual spring work on the farm, I caused eight acres to be sowed with oats and seeded down to grass; the Superintendent, in addition to the work on the farm, was employed eight days assisting and instructing the Indians on their several lots in the spring, and this fall has worked himself and oxen twelve days on the different lots in plowing and preparing the ground for another year. The crop on the farm for the past year amounts to about twelve tons hay, one hundred bushels potatoes, eight bushels carrots, and one hundred seventy-five bushels oats, worth in all about three hundred dollars. A good preparation has been made for the next year. Eight acres as above mentioned have been prepared for grass, and three acres have been cleared and ready for a crop. The farm will probably cut twenty-five tons of hay another year. In my opinion, this farm with a few years management of good husbandry, cannot fail of being as productive as farms usually are in this vicinity, but even if it fail to meet full expectations in this particular, still, in as much as the services of the man and oxen are needed in the winter season in hauling wood for the poor, which under other circumstances would be a direct charge on the Indian fund, it seems to me it should not be abandoned. I therefore respectfully suggest that a moderate sum be appropriated for the repairs of the buildings.

EMPLOYMENT AND MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE.

There are about one hundred and fifty men of this tribe capable of labor; I am not able to state the exact number; of these about one hundred engage in farming, more or less; besides farming, a portion of the men are engaged in winter season in hunting, and some of the young men, during the spring months are employed on the river driving lumber. The women are employed in making baskets, snow-shoes and moccasins.

The men also make canoes. These employments, together with their fund, annuities, bounties, a small stock of cattle and some rents of small amount, compose their means of subsistence.

GENERAL CONDITION.

During the year there has been considerable sickness among the tribe, but not particularly fatal. There has been but one case of small-pox. As has been before stated, two-thirds of the tribe reside on Old Town Island, where they have a chapel, council-hall, a school-house in poor repair, forty-three framed dwelling-houses, and three barns, also twenty-nine houses and fifteen barns scattered on the islands above. Their stock consists of eighteen swine, twenty-five head neat cattle, and three horses. As is well known the tribe has a nominal government of their own, and retain certain ancient customs and usages. How far these control or effect their conduct I am unable to say, but I have found them thus far quiet and peaceable in their habits, and obedient to our laws. Cases of intoxication have frequently occurred, but to no greater extent than heretofore. It is difficult to obtain evidence of the violation of the law against the sale of intoxicating drink to the Indians, and if obtained the penalty is inadequate to the offence, and insufficient to restrain the sale. I therefore suggest additional legislation on this subject. In their domestic relations the Indians of this tribe show favorably; they are chaste in their habits, and generally kind in their intercourse with each other. The Indians are naturally jealous, and this jealousy is sometimes inflamed by the selfish motives and insinuations of the whites, to such a degree that the refusal of the agent to comply with all their demands, however unreasonable, is attributed to some personal motive on his part, and from this cause he is often much embarrassed in the discharge of his duties.

In concluding my remarks on the condition of this tribe, permit me to say that their present condition exhibits many circumstances that promise well for the future, and encourage the hope that by the means of a wholesome system of labor and education, without which it is vain to expect any advance in their civilization, and by the aid of an enlightened policy on the part of the State, they will progress in virtue and knowledge, and in the arts common among a cultivated people; but if, on the other hand, after all that has been done for them, that justice and humanity

demand, they shall share the fate that has so often overtaken the Indian, in his conflict with civilized life, and disappear one by one until all are gone from among us, the State, their self-constituted guardian, will stand vindicated before the world, in having discharged towards them its whole duty.

Before closing this report I respectfully suggest that the following appropriations be made for the year next ensuing viz :

Balance, - - - - -	\$675 02
Interest on Indian Fund, - - - - -	3000 00
Annuities, - - - - -	1600 00
For Superintendent, - - - - -	325 00
For repairs on building for farm, - - - - -	100 00
Agricultural purposes, - - - - -	650 00
Bounties on crops, - - - - -	700 00
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	\$7050 02

JAMES A. PURINTON, *Indian Agent.*

OLD TOWN, Dec. 15th, 1860.

PASSAMAQUODDY INDIANS.

To the Honorable Governor and Council

of the State of Maine:

In compliance with a resolve approved March 17th, 1860, requiring the Agent of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians to report annually, I herewith submit the following:

I find it extremely difficult to ascertain the exact number of this tribe. In the fall of 1859 the census showed four hundred and fifty-six to be the number of the tribe. In May, 1860, I found it to be four hundred and forty-two, to whom I paid one dollar per head. In November the number had increased to five hundred and fifty-three, to whom I paid seventy-five cents per head. Amounting to three hundred and thirty nine dollars and seventy five cents, which, with balance due on Nov., 1859, and May, 1860, the account will amount to three hundred and forty-seven dollars and sixty-five cents, leaving a balance due me on May and November, dividends of eighty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents.

This tribe seem to have no fixed home, but wander about from place to place as suits their convenience for the time being. A very large proportion of those who call Pleasant Point their home, are obliged to move elsewhere in winter on account of having no wood lot from which to keep their fires bright. The men hunt considerable, some of them pay more attention to farming, but basket making is the chief employment, as the women can do the greater portion of the work. Another portion that reside at Peter Dennis' Point, on Indian Township, are somewhat engaged with lumbermen in the woods and on the lakes; this, together with farming, hunting, basket making, and what benefits the State allows them, secures to them a comfortable living.

There is also another portion, a part of whom live in Calais, and part at Clark's point, (so called), whose means of living are much the same as those before described.

I think the entire tribe are becoming more and more interested in farming, and give as my opinion, that should the State give them greater inducements, they would in a few years become farmers instead of hunters and basket makers. There is a marked change for the better in this tribe during the last few years. The schools have made a decided improvement, particularly in the youth, as the reports of the School Committee must show.

The number that attended School at Peter Dennis' Point would average from twenty to twenty-five, who, as I learn from the Committee of Princeton, made rapid progress.

Their school was kept in a room of the Priest's house, which was entirely too small, and altogether unfit for a school-room.

I should certainly recommend an appropriation to build a suitable school-house for that portion of the tribe, as it will not only give them greater facilities for an education, but will tend to make them still more zealous. The school at Pleasant Point was wholly under the instruction of the School Committee of Perry, taught by two of them in turn. I visited this school twice, when under the management of Mr. Stickney, but did not find that strong interest manifested by the school that I had hoped and expected, knowing the superior tact of the teacher to impart instruction to his pupils. I think it would be much better to employ teachers who are acquainted with the manners and customs of the Indians, and would make rules for the government of the schools to which the scholars could easily conform, for it is quite impossible to adopt our common school system with them at present. This school, I think, averaged about thirty-five; length of term, ten weeks.

There has also been an increased interest, as before remarked, in agriculture. They are just beginning to find out that manure is necessary to secure a good crop, and consequently success in farming. It was with difficulty that I induced some of them to use guano; I gave them money to buy it with, and they used it very sparingly, but when harvest time came their most sanguine expectations were more than realized. Their potatoes turned out bountifully and extremely large, showing to those whose ignorance prevented them from carrying out the same happy result, that something besides a good common soil was necessary for a good crop. The number of Indians to whom seed and money for seed was distributed, was 109, but some, as has always been the case with them, did not plant. The number actually engaged in farming was about ninety. And here allow me to suggest the passage

of a resolve allowing no Indian either seed, or money that was appropriated for agricultural purposes, who is not known by the agent to have the ground ready in which to plant the seed. This small sum of \$400, as appropriated by the State for agricultural purposes, when divided equally among those who claim a share, gives but three dollars, sixty-two and one half cents to the family; divide this small sum again in seed, manure, plowing &c., and you will readily perceive that but a small piece of land will be tilled. I would here again suggest a larger appropriation for this branch of industry. I expended in their farming operations as per bills and receipts, \$404 96.

At the close of the last year I had to tell you of the misfortune of the Indians having the scarlet fever break out among them at Pleasant Point. I have now to tell you of a greater misfortune, a worse and more infectious disease, the small-pox, which broke out among them, or a portion of them that resided at Magaguadavie, last winter, seventeen in number, two of whom died. Their sickness, and other necessary expenses, caused quite a large outlay of money, as the receipts will show, for which there was no appropriation. I was notified of this sickness by A. J. Wetmore, Esq., of St. George, stating also that they were in a very destitute and suffering condition, that the Parish had helped them all they could, and some provision must be made immediately for their relief. The sick ones were without a nurse, and the well ones not allowed by the inhabitants to go about from the infectious nature of the disease, and had it not been for the kind and careful treatment of them by Doct. Joseph Solon Selmon, whom I sent to their relief, the result would have been much more alarming. An appropriation will be necessary to meet this expense—\$174 65. The people of Magaguadavie deserve great thanks for their exceeding kindness manifested to those poor, unfortunate creatures; they not only furnished them with fifty or sixty dollars worth of provisions, but on their recovery the doctor cleansed them two or three times, and the inhabitants furnished them with new suits as often, showing that spirit of love to the creatures of Almighty God that we all should feel. There are twenty very old people in this tribe who have a strong claim on that appropriation called poor money; these need more assistance than I am able to give them from the small sum of \$300 and take care of the remaining poor as their circumstances demand. I would therefore advise the appropriation of one hundred dollars to expend in blankets and clothing

for those old and very poor persons. I have expended this year, in this department, three hundred and seventeen dollars and fifty cents.

The money appropriated for repairs of churches, was expended as the bills will show. These churches, on examination, proved in a much worse condition than I anticipated, and the amount appropriated for the two was not sufficient to make necessary repairs on either.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE W. NUTT,

Agent for Pass. tribe of Indians.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, December 18, 1860.

Received, and one thousand copies ordered to be printed for
the use of the Legislature.

LOT M. MORRILL, *Governor.*