

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1866.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1866.

FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 23.

STATE OF MAINE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
AUGUSTA, Feb. 2, 1866. }

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

In compliance with a request of the Legislature of this day received, I have the honor herewith to transmit to you the report of the Agent of the Penobscot tribe of Indians for the year 1865.

SAMUEL CONY.

REPORT OF THE AGENT

OF THE

PENOBSCOT TRIBE OF INDIANS.

To the Hon. Governor and Council of Maine :

I respectfully submit the following report in regard to the Penobscot tribe of Indians for the year ending December 1st, 1865. The amount of expenditures during that time, as will more fully appear by the accompanying account, are as follows :

For paid Rev. Charles Blanchard, salary as Superintendent of Farming, for	
A. D., 1864, per resolve,	\$ 360 00
S. S. Committee of Oldtown, Lincoln and Greenbush, per resolve,	250 00
For amount expended for Agricultural purposes,	600 00
“ “ goods for annuity,	2000 00
For paid Rev. Charles Blanchard salary for 1865,	360 00
bounty on crops for 1865,	400 00
For salary for year ending December 1, 1865,	300 00
For paid for goods for annual spring dividend,	813 13
“ “ support of poor, aged, infirm and sick,	1545 47
“ “ medical attendance and medicine,	98 75
“ “ funeral expenses,	192 91
“ “ wood for the old and poor,	193 62
“ incidental expenses, S. S. Committee, surveying, ferriages, &c.,	367 38
	\$7481 26
<i>Receipts.</i>	
By Warrant, April, 1865,	\$2000 00
“ May, “	1500 00
“ October, “	3000 00
“ December, “	870 00
By amount received for one Yoke sold,	6 00
“ “ Grass sold,	12 00
“ “ one Sled sold,	15 00
“ “ old building on Indian island,	15 00
“ corn, flour, pork and molasses remaining from Spring dividend,	63 26
	\$7481 26

The census of the tribe as taken by the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown and returned to me, shows their number to be (500) five hundred.

Schools have been taught on Oldtown, Olamon and Mattanawcook Islands by female teachers with good success, so far as I have been able to learn, and to the general satisfaction of the tribe.

The desire to improve the advantages of school education appears to be increasing and more general among the Indians. For particulars in regard to their schools, I would refer to the reports of the S. S. Committees, under whose charge they more particularly belong.

In the spring I was called upon to provide some suitable place in which to keep the school on Oldtown island. The building which had been used for schools was represented as unsafe, and many objected to sending their children there. I had the building carefully examined by competent persons who concluded that there was great risk in using the building, and that the cost of necessary repairs would equal, if not exceed, that of building a new house. I could find no place to accommodate the school except the public hall; the Indians did not like to have the hall used for this purpose, but under the necessity of the case, finally consented. This hall was built and is used for the meetings of the tribe, and is not a suitable place for school purposes. A small appropriation would build them a house large enough for a school, and is very much needed.

The tribe has manifested considerable interest in farming and gardening during the year, but on account of the severe drought, the products of their labor in this respect is not so great as otherwise would have been, though they will bear a fair comparison with the farms of the whites in this locality. For particulars in this department I refer to the report of the Superintendent.

In my last Annual Report I suggested that some system of allowing the Indians to lease a portion of their lands for a term of years, at a fair rental, with specified annual improvements, be established by an act of the Legislature. Upon careful observation and longer experience, I am more convinced that this should be done, and would respectfully renew the suggestion. These leases should, however, be subject to the approval of the Superintendent or the Agent. I know of no other way in which lands now run out so as to be unproductive, or nearly so, could be brought to and made valuable. The soil on the Islands is generally good, but from constant use, without manure and careful tillage, have been reduced to the state in which a portion of their land now is, and the Indian in his present condition will not give that constant and persevering application which will be required to restore these lands.

Acting under a resolve of the last Legislature, a portion of the

tribe called the "Old Party," held a meeting, and notified me that it was the decision of their party to abolish the election of Representative to the Legislature, which, as they claimed, would leave them free to act in the same manner in regard to sending a Delegate to the Legislature as they had done before the agreement between the two parties in 1850. Subsequently another portion of the tribe called the "New Party," held a meeting, and notified me that their party wished to hold an election to choose a Delegate, as had been the custom since 1850, and that they should consider the agreement of that year as binding. Not knowing which if either meeting constituted a majority of the tribe, and the resolve not authorizing me to make any change in their election unless the tribe were agreed, I consequently posted the notice for and held an election at the same time and place as has been customary in late years. All the votes cast at this election were given in by the New Party.

The employments of the members of this tribe have been about the same as heretofore. The advance in the price of labor and productions has extended to the Indians, and they have received good wages for their labor, and remunerative prices for baskets, snow shoes, moccasins, and such other articles as they have been able to manufacture. Receiving a fair compensation for their labor has had a tendency to make them more industrious, and to awaken in them a desire to improve their condition. The seed sown in their schools, and their free communication with the whites, has caused many to adopt the manners and customs of the whites, as far as their circumstances will admit, and as this becomes more general, their condition physically, morally and socially, becomes improved.

GEO. F. DILLINGHAM,
Agent Penobscot Indians.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 12, 1866.

Ordered, That the Report of Agent of the Penobscot tribe of Indians be printed.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*