

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF MAINE:

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF VARIOUS

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

•
1867-8.



AUGUSTA:

OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1868.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

AGENTS OF THE

PENOBSCOT AND PASSAMAQUODDY

TRIBES OF INDIANS,

AND OF THE

SUPERVISORS OF THE SCHOOLS FOR INDIANS AT OLD-
TOWN AND PLEASANT POINT.

DECEMBER, 1867.



AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1868.

PENOBSCOT AGENT'S REPORT.

To the Hon. Governor and Council of Maine:

The annual report in regard to the appropriations for the benefit of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians and their condition, as required by law, for the year ending December 1st, 1867, is hereby respectfully submitted. The amount of expenditures during the year as will more fully appear by the accompanying account is as follows:

For amount paid superintending school committee of Oldtown, Greenbush and Lincoln,		\$250 00
	per resolves,	
amount paid Joseph Attean, Governor,	“	50 00
“ paid Saul Neptune, Lt. Governor,	“	30 00
“ expended for agricultural purposes,	“	1,000 00
“ “ shingling church,	“	100 00
“ “ building cemetery fences,	“	100 00
“ “ goods for annuity,	“	2,000 00
“ “ bounty on crops,	“	500 00
“ salary as agent for 1867,	“	300 00
“ salary as superintendent farming,	“	150 00
“ expended for goods for spring dividend,		770 13
“ “ support of poor, aged, infirm and sick,		1,749 03
“ “ medicine and medical attendance,		294 02
“ “ funeral expenses,		117 64
“ “ wood for poor and sick,		340 80
“ “ incidental expenses,		260 59
		\$7,912 21
RECEIPTS.		
March,	By warrant,	\$2,000 00
June,	“	2,000 00
September,	“	3,000 00
December,	“	827 69
“	amount received for grass sold,	6 00
“	amount corn, flour, pork and molasses remaining from spring dividend,	78 52
		\$7,912 21

During the year the church on Oldtown island has been thoroughly shingled.

The fence around the cemetery is forty-one rods, and has been built from the fund appropriated. It is now necessary from their ancient customs and by the requirements of their religion that a cross should be erected in this cemetery, and as the tribe are quite unanimous in the desire that it should be of granite, I would

recommend that a sufficient amount be appropriated for the purchase and erection of a suitable granite cross.

It will be necessary to make appropriations for the ensuing year of the same amounts as last year, for the several usual purposes.

The census of the tribe returned to me by the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, was taken in the early part of the year, and shows their number to be four hundred and sixty-four, (464.)

The number of deaths has not been so large as during the previous year, although sickness has been as prevalent as in former years.

The law lately passed in regard to elections continues to give general satisfaction to both parties of the tribe, and has thus far effected the desired results of preventing an extended political excitement, and the useless expenditures of time and money, by the members of the different parties, a saving which is an indirect benefit to the State, as thereby lessening the amount which otherwise would have to be furnished them from the fund for aid to the poor.

The prohibitory law of last winter in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and its strict enforcement in the towns in this vicinity have produced manifest good results in the tribe. While many of the tribe are strictly temperate, and would not under any circumstances drink intoxicating liquors as a beverage, there are, as is the case with fairer races, others who will indulge in its use to every degree of excess whenever an opportunity can be had. Whatever may have been the effect of this law among the whites, it has most certainly had a beneficial effect among the latter class of this tribe. I am happy to be able to say that spirituous liquors have been, to a great extent, kept beyond their reach, and cases of intoxication with its attendant evils of public disturbances and injury or destruction of property, have been very rare, and as a consequence a kinder treatment of their families has obtained among this class of the tribe, and they have more money to furnish articles of necessity and comfort to their families. Not only the amount wasted in the purchase of liquor has been saved, but also that resulting from their labor during the time which would otherwise have been consumed in a state of intoxication, and in some cases of consequent sickness.

Under the law passed last winter authorizing the leasing of the lands of the tribe for a term of years, several advantageous leases

have been effected. The annual rental of each parcel is at least as great as heretofore received in addition to the various stipulations for specified annual improvements, and a covenant to leave the land under a good state of cultivation at the expiration of the lease. This method of leasing their lands appears to be entirely satisfactory to the tribe and to the neighboring whites, and I have no doubt will prove of great advantage to the State as well as to the tribe.

The attendance at the various schools this year and the interest manifested in their welfare and continuance, has been about the same as in previous years. Schools have been taught on Oldtown, Olamon and Mattanawcook islands, under the immediate superintendence of the Superintending School Committees of Oldtown, Greenbush and Lincoln. Their general management has given good satisfaction to all parties concerned. For particulars in regard to the standing and advancement of these schools, I would refer to the reports of those committees.

The members of the tribe have received ample compensation for their labor, while the prices of their home productions have fallen off in the same proportion as other commodities. The young men appear to have a particular adaptation or inclination for work on the water, and are especially sought after to assist in driving logs. As an instance of this fact I would cite the case of the west branch drive of last spring. The entire crew of this drive was about two hundred men, of whom forty were men belonging to this tribe.

The public farm on Orson island was leased by direction of the Governor and Council at public auction for five years, which expires on January 24th, 1868. I would suggest that it will be necessary for some action to be taken in regard to this farm.

A state of prosperity appears to be now more general among the tribe than at any time heretofore, and is manifested by the improvements in their dwelling-houses and the number of new buildings built this year, or now in process of construction, a number largely in excess of that of any year for a long period. This has always been rightly considered an advanced landmark in the progress of any race in civilization and enlightenment. The absolute necessities of life must be obtained by all people, however rude their method may be, and any improvement in this method is easily seen and quickly adopted, but improvements in their dwellings, whether in number, convenience, or in respect to appearance, is

only accepted and acted upon by those nations who have not only acquired a cultivated taste and good judgment, but have become possessed of a surplus resulting from habits of industry and economy. The approach of this tribe towards the civilization of the whites, may not perhaps be noticed from year to year, but when considered for long periods is most apparently manifested. Under this view it is encouraging to legislators, and to those to whom the immediate care of this tribe is entrusted, to know that their labor is not in vain, and that all measures, whether in regard to schools, or otherwise taken by the State to assist the tribe or encourage them in their laudable endeavors, is not only a present advantage to the Indian, but in the end will result in great good to the State by changing a race that may now seem to be a burden into active, intelligent and industrious inhabitants.

GEO. F. DILLINGHAM,

Agent Penobscot Indians.

PASSAMAQUODDY AGENT'S REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Governor, and the
Honorable Council of Maine:*

I herewith present my first annual Report as Agent of the Passamaquoddy Indians.

Amount of money appropriated for destitute poor,	\$300 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	122 00
" George H. Boardman,	62 50
" John Polleys,	33 88
" George F. Wadsworth & Son,	192 00
File "A."	410 38
Amount of money appropriated for May dividend,	400 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	70 70
" George H. Boardman,	51 00
" John Polleys,	13 15
" Gates, Duren & Co.,	53 10
" George F. Wadsworth & Son,	200 40
File "B."	388 35
Amount appropriated for ploughing,	100 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	50 00
" Mark Leighton,	50 00
File "C."	100 00
Amount appropriated for agricultural purposes,	500 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	111 00
" George H. Boardman,	69 00
" George F. Wadsworth,	253 80
File "D."	433 80
Amount money appropriated for salary of Governor and Lt. Governor,	80 00
Amount paid Governor John Francis per his receipt,	50 00
" Lt. Governor Newell Neptune, per his receipt,	30 00
File "E."	80 00

Statement, (Continued.)

Amount money appropriated for agent's salary,	\$300 00
Amount money paid said agent per his receipt, File "F."	300 00
Amount money appropriated for bounty on crops,	300 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	73 90
" George H. Boardman,	9 40
" George F. Wadsworth & Son,	211 75
File "G."	295 05
Amount appropriated for wood at Pleasant Point,	50 00
Amount disbursed as per Gates, Duren & Co.'s bill, File "H."	50 00
Amount money appropriated for chapel at Peter Dana Point,	135 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son, per bills, File "I."	105 06
Amount money appropriated for November dividend,	300 00
Amount disbursed by Putnam Rolfe & Son,	59 30
" George H. Boardman,	49 80
" George F. Wadsworth & Son,	177 21
File "K."	286 31

You will perceive that I have considerably exceeded the amount appropriated for destitute poor. This was unavoidable. The consequence is that I have been obliged to cut down some of the other appropriations. I would urge the necessity of increasing the poor fund at least two hundred dollars, and at the same time giving the agent discretionary power in its distribution. There are constantly cases of extreme suffering, sickness and want, and it seems to me that the agent should have the means at hand to relieve in some measure the suffering poor.

The whole number of men, women and children, as near as can be ascertained, is, in round numbers, five hundred, the tribe being scattered from Pleasant Point, Perry, to Peter Dana Pt., a distance of sixty miles up the St. Croix River, and thence some twenty or thirty miles on the eastern branch, rendering it extremely difficult to obtain the exact number.

It is very difficult to make the Indians understand that it is for their interest to cultivate the soil. A larger amount of potatoes was planted this year than usual, but the season was not favorable for the crops. The land at Pleasant Point is very poor and needs

a great deal of dressing ; at Peter Dana Pt. it is rich, and I think another year much more will be done in the way of farming.

The chapel at Peter Dana Pt. has been shingled, and a new stove and pipe put in. At Pleasant Point a new hall has been erected and the outside nearly completed. This was brought about by a vote of the Indians at Pleasant Pt. appropriating most of their portion of the November dividend for that purpose.

The custom of holding their annual election alternately at Pleasant Pt. and Peter Dana Pt., and compelling the government to bear the expense of transportation, seems very absurd. I would recommend that they should vote at each Point on the same day, the agent deciding as to who is elected.

The time for which the Indian Township was leased expires the coming year. Some action by the State will be necessary. I would advise its re-lease on the best possible terms, for should it go back to the State as it was, it would be a bone of contention to the Indians.

The chapel and schoolhouse at Pleasant Point need painting and considerable other repairs. I would recommend that the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated for that purpose.

The governor's house remains unfinished, and he is obliged to resort to the woods to keep warm in winter. I would advise that the State appropriate the sum of one hundred dollars, and allow the agent to expend the same to the best of his judgment.

Should the Indian township revert to the State, the duties of the agent would be much more laborious than now, and his salary in that case should be raised to five hundred dollars.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. F. WADSWORTH,
Agent Passamaquoddy Indians.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT—OLDTOWN.

To the Secretary of State :

The undersigned, Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, to whom is entrusted by law the supervision of the Indian School on Oldtown Island, Penobscot County, offer their report as follows :

The appropriation for 1866 was not wholly expended until March 5, 1867, at which time the account closed. It was expended in support of two schools, a summer and winter school. The summer school commenced May 21, 1866, and closed July 20th following. Length of school in days, five and one-half days to a week, nine weeks. The school was kept by Miss Mary A. Lunt, an experienced teacher.

Average attendance,	21
Teacher's wages, including board, per week,	\$6 00

The winter school was under the instruction of Miss Laura E. Gray, an experienced teacher. The school commenced Jan. 14, 1867, and closed March 1st following.

Average number in attendance,	16
Whole number,	31
Wages per week, including board,	\$6 00

The account with this appropriation stands as follows :

Dr.		
To paid Maria Davis, balance due for teaching last year,		\$10 00
Mary A. Lunt, for teaching,		54 00
E. C. Brett, services as superintending school committee,		5 00
S. W. Hoskins, "		5 00
J. H. Hilliard, "		5 00
Indians for use of hall for school-room,		2 00
wood for school-room,		3 06
for sawing, splitting and piling wood,		1 75
for wire, 10 cts., broom, 20 cts., chair, 50 cts.,		80
Laura E. Gray, for teaching,		42 00
		\$128 61
Cr.		
By appropriation of State,		\$125 00
overpaid,		3 61
		\$128 61

The expenditure of the present year's appropriation thus far is as follows :

There has been one school, taught by Miss Fanny Norton, commencing June 4th, and ending July 17th.

Average attendance,	10
Whole attendance,	40
Price of teaching per week, including board,	\$6 00

The balance of this appropriation is reserved for the coming winter school, at the close of which the account with this appropriation will be stated in detail, and appear in the next report.

The resolve of 1860, now in operation, requires the committee to include such facts in their report as may bear on the interest of education among the Penobscot tribe.

The order or place which this, in common with the other North American Indian tribes holds in the scale of intellect, is a subject curious and interesting. If physical development is a measure of the mind within, we may regard the Indian as belonging to a race of great mental power, and capable of great mental improvement. Viewed, however, from other stand-points, the conclusion is not so favorable. Few savage races have been found so destitute of all marks of civilization as were the Indian tribes when first discovered by the Europeans, and few if any have lived so long amidst and on the verge of civilization and made so few advances in the arts of civilized life.

If we regard language as the sign of ideas, the Indian must occupy the back ground, as their language never has been and never can be reduced to alphabetical form, and the fewness of its words, and their unadaptedness to convey ideas, clearly prove that the ideas to be conveyed are few and limited.

But however this may be, it is safe to say that a people with very limited mental power are capable of attaining to the knowledge of the arts of civilized life. These arts and improvements lie within the reach of the feeblest rational mind. It requires but little mental effort to learn to till the ground, to erect comfortable dwellings, and to manufacture the common implements of husbandry and hand labor. These arts underlie all civilization, and the Indian is fully capable of attaining a moderate skill in them at least.

Their known skill in basket-weaving, canoe-building, and bead-work shows that they possess an ingenuity in the manufacture of toys and trinkets which can be turned successfully to the more

important pursuits of civilized life. Still, however, some degree of mental culture and training is necessary, and as we have shown, this cannot be conveyed through their own language, as it is not sufficiently copious to express the requisite ideas. Resort must be had to the English language.

The difficulties in the way are obvious. In the first place, there is the tribal tenacity to encounter, which, indeed is quite formidable. Separate a young Indian from his tribe, and place him at work or at school, his strong natural love for his tribe will soon carry him back to it. The only way to reach him is to convey the means of education into his tribe, and place them at the door of the wigwam, or erect the schoolhouse within the tribal limits. Even then there are hindrances which constantly retard his progress. He is taught the English language in school, and when school closes he goes to his home to talk in his own Indian tongue till school hours return. Under these circumstances his progress is slow, almost discouraging. It is, however, the best and all that can be done.

The State is under solemn obligations not to dissolve their tribal condition, but rather to protect it. The Indian is free to stay in his tribe and free to go. It is the duty of the State to afford him a fair opportunity to improve in a knowledge of our language, customs and arts.

As it regards the Indians within the limits of the Oldtown school, we are happy to say that their improvement though slow is very manifest, such as fairly justifies all and more than the State has done for them. And this leads us to say, in conclusion, that a larger appropriation for the school on Oldtown Island is needed. The school is too short, being limited to two terms of eight weeks each. We recommend that the sum of \$200 be appropriated for this school, instead of the sum heretofore appropriated.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. HILLIARD,
S. W. HOSKINS,
J. B. ELKINS.

OLDTOWN, Dec. 16, 1867.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT—PLEASANT PT.

PERRY, Dec. 24, 1867.

To the Hon. Secretary of State :

We herewith make a report of Indian School at Pleasant Point.

This school was taught by an experienced male teacher. It commenced July 1, 1867, and kept seven weeks. Whole number registered, 49 ; average number, 25. The average was very good, also the improvement was very good.

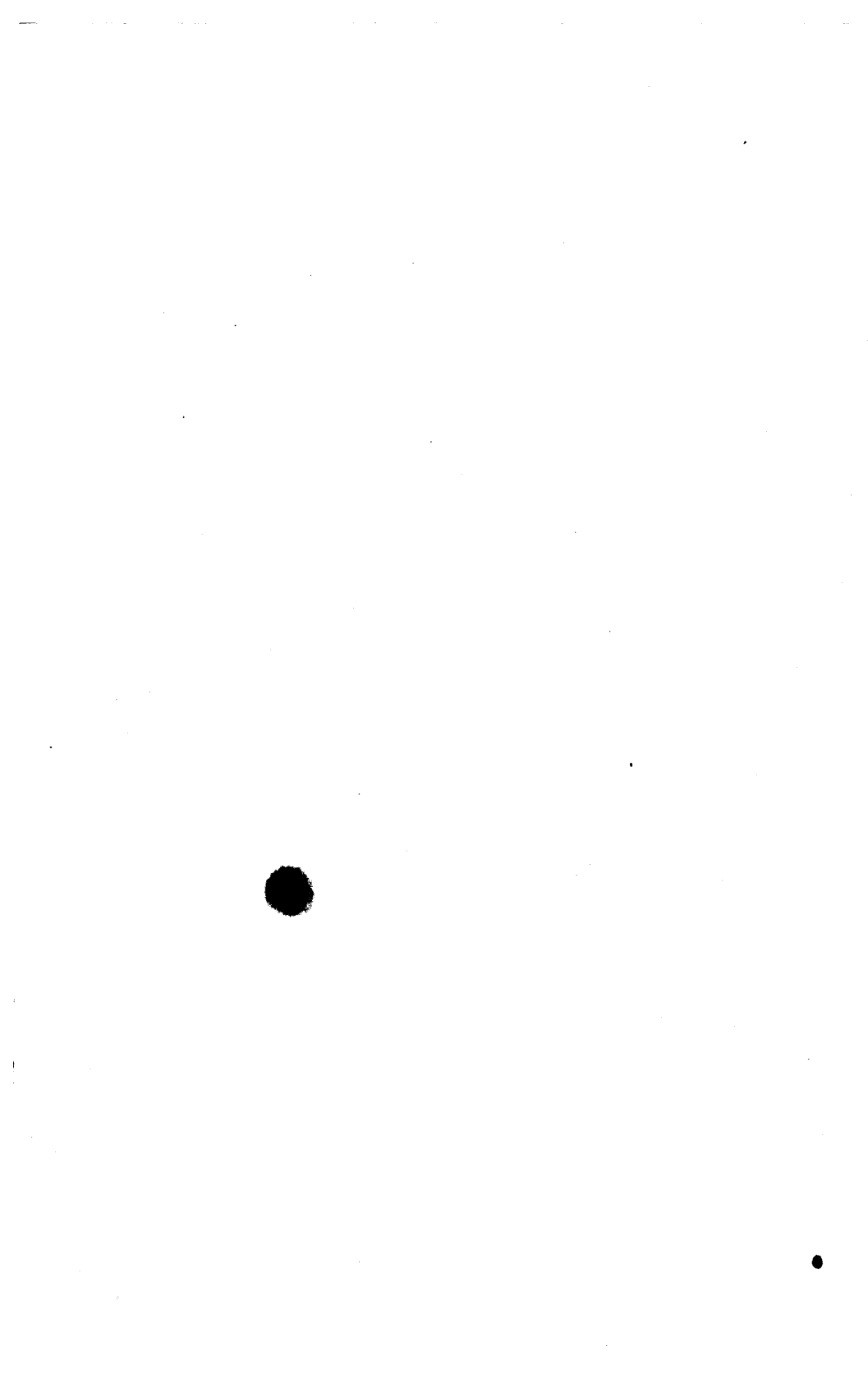
Amount paid teacher,	\$70
Books and stationery,	5
	<hr/>
	\$75

We would again recommend that more money be appropriated, as some is needed to repair the house, get a stove, &c.

Very respectfully yours,

J. F. NUTT,

Chairman of Superintending School Committee.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL, December 30, 1867.

ORDERED, That the Secretary of State be directed to procure the printing of three hundred copies (for the use of the Legislature) of the reports of the Agents of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Tribes of Indians and of the Superintending School Committee of Oldtown relating to the School for the Penobscot Tribe of Indians.

IN COUNCIL, December 30, 1867.

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

EPHRAIM FLINT, *Secretary of State.*