

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

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1863.

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 2.

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

I herewith submit my third Annual Report of the Passamaquoddy Indian Agency, as follows:

By amount of warrant in May,	\$2,124 54
July,	250 00
October,	650 00
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	\$3,024 54

EXPENDITURES.

For balance of account as per settlement,	\$434 39
“ Bounty for 1861,	430 80
“ Dividend for May,	396 20
“ Seed and Manure,	403 55
“ School House,	97 89
“ School at Peter Dennis’ Point,	85 00
“ Amount to balance account of school at Pleasant Point for 1861,	15 00
“ School at Pleasant Point,	100 30
“ Amount to Governors,	50 00
“ Stove for Chapel,	14 50
“ Dividend for November,	302 37
“ Amount paid Poor,	356 38
“ One year’s salary,	300 00
“ Wood to Indians,	50 00
“ Extra time with Commissions,	30 00
“ Paid Postage,	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$3071 38
Leaving but the small balance of	46 84

Bounty on crops for 1862, will amount to about \$430. I have paid already about \$420. An appropriation will be necessary to meet these amounts.

CENSUS.

The number of this tribe in June last, was four hundred and sixty-nine; showing a gain of six within the last year. In November the number was four hundred and eighty. This gain was caused by members of the tribe who have been absent for years, moving back.

EDUCATION.

The schools for the past year have been entirely under my supervision. I taught the school at Pleasant Point, and although the attendance was not so large as I would wish, yet it was, perhaps, as good as could be expected, and a gain on past years—showing that the interest in education is still growing. The improvement of the scholars was rapid; many in this school are now able to read, write and cipher very well. Length of school twelve weeks. Average number in attendance, thirty-one.

The school at Peter Dennis' Point was taught by Mr. Henry Sprague, one of the school committee of Princeton. This school was small, averaging not over seven or eight; but the progress of those far exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine.

It may appear to many that money expended in schools is little better than lost; but this is a great mistake. It is true the present generation may not derive any very great advantages from these schools, but generations yet to come will reap a rich harvest from these generous donations of the State. I would therefore suggest an appropriation of \$250 for schools for the coming year.

AGRICULTURE.

The amount appropriated for agriculture is entirely insufficient for the requirements of the tribe. Their interest in this particular branch seems to be rapidly increasing. A spirit of emulation exists among them which is continually exciting and moving them onward to action; and their idle, lazy, indolent habits are fast giving way to useful employment. The number engaged in farming this year was one hundred and twenty-four. The increase of interest is not only indicated by the increase of farmers, but by the

manner they till the soil. This branch, above all others, should be particularly cared for by the State, and a liberal appropriation made therefor.

GENERAL CONDITION.

The Indian, unlike his white neighbor, is not subject to many reverses of fortune, consequently their condition is not much changed since my last Report. There is, however, a gradual improvement; they are becoming more and more like the white man. Their manners, style of dress, and habits of living, compare favorably with many of the white people; and their ability to read and write, gives them a standing very far in advance of what they were a few years ago. There are a number of very good mechanics among them who are able to build and finish their own houses in very good style.

There is a class of aged, infirm widows, and orphans, who are dependent for their support, in a great measure, on their friends, and whose demands for help cannot be disregarded. The only fund from which these can be relieved is the small amount appropriated for the poor; and my endeavors to deal impartially and give satisfaction, are sometimes unavailing.

A few words on the condition of that part of the tribe who reside at Pleasant Point. They are situated on one of the most beautiful spots of land on the St. Croix River, with a good church and school-house, and everything for their convenience except a wood-lot. It is true the State allows them fifty dollars a year for wood and fencing; but that amount divided between twenty-five or thirty families, gives but a small portion to each. After carefully considering the matter, knowing the improbability of inducing these Indians to remove from there, I deem it my duty to recommend the purchase of a wood-lot for this portion of the tribe, in lieu of the land given away on Tomah stream, in Indian Township. This, I think, would be perfectly satisfactory to all the Indians, and but a small remuneration for the land given away. I laid this matter before the commissioners, showed them the disadvantages under which these Indians were laboring, with a view that they might say something to induce the State to make the purchase.

G. W. NUTT,

Agent for Passamaquoddy Indians.

PENOBSCOT INDIAN AGENCY, }
Oldtown, Dec. 15, 1862. }

To the Hon. Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

THE undersigned, Agent for the Penobscot Indians, herewith respectfully submits his report for the year ending Dec. 15, 1862.

The receipts of this Agency, for year aforesaid, have been as follows, viz :

By Warrant, March 27th,	\$500 00
“ May 15th,	450 00
“ “ 	625 00
“ “ 	1,425 00
By amount received for grass,	4 50
“ of corn, flour and molasses, remaining from Spring dividend, undivided,	13 91
By balance of public farm account to date,	3 76
“ Warrant, October 7th,	1,750 00
“ balance of appropriations undrawn,	490 10
	\$5,262 27

The expenditures have been as follows, viz :

Paid John Neptune, as per resolve, 1862,	\$25 00
“ Plowing and harrowing,	404 74
“ Seed distributed,	331 66
“ Annual Spring dividend,	350 23
“ Support of poor, sick, aged and infirm, medicine, &c.,	1,180 75
“ Medical services,	73 50
“ Funeral expenses,	134 89
“ Taking census, steamboat, trucking, blacksmith, ferryage, sundry bills and other incidentals,	232 47
“ Annual Fall dividend,	1,200 94
“ Superintending School Committee, of Oldtown and Lincoln, for support of Schools as per resolves,	200 00
“ John Dougherty, services on public farm to Dec. 15, 1862,	325 00
“ Bounties on crops and expenses,	353 09
“ Aiding and instructing the Indians, under act of 1862,	150 00
“ Agent’s salary,	300 00
	\$5,262 27

For items of expenditures I refer to my account on file. The population of the tribe, returned by the Superintending School Committee, as provided by law, is five hundred and thirteen; seven more than the number of the last year.

As it regards the progress of the Indians in education, there are now two schools established, one on Mattanawcook Island, near Lincoln, and one on Oldtown Island. I cannot speak definitely of the Lincoln school, as no return is made by the School Committee to this department, and it is located beyond my immediate observation. The school on Oldtown Island has been well conducted, and under good instruction. The attendance has been good; full better, in proportion to the population at home, than heretofore. The usual branches of common schools have been taught, the progress has been commendable, and is a full warrant for future appropriations in this behalf.

The public farm, the present season, yielded by estimate eighteen tons of hay, one hundred and seventy-five bushels of potatoes, one hundred and twenty-five bushels of oats, three bushels of beans, and seven tons of straw, all of which is now on hand. There is now about thirty acres of grass land, ten acres of plow land, and fourteen acres of pasturage. This farm comprises, in all, about two hundred and twenty-four acres, and is situated about four miles above Oldtown village. The buildings, consisting of a one-and-a-half story house, and a barn, are in good condition, and there is a well of good water near.

The Indians have given as much attention to agriculture the last season as at any previous time during my agency; but their bounty crops are less than that of the year preceding, as will appear by my return. This is in part attributable to a change of tillage into grass land, and in part to a failure of the crop itself. The tillage and grass land are in a good state of cultivation, and increasing in breadth. I have given to the tribe all the aid and assistance in their agricultural affairs that law and duty require of me.

On a review of the past year, I am happy to say that, with a few exceptions, arising from intemperance, the conduct of the Indians of this tribe has been good.

In my last report I urged the importance of a common school education, and the knowledge and practice of agriculture to the advancement and permanent welfare of this tribe. Every day's observation strengthens my convictions of the correctness of this

view, and of the belief I then entertained, that the true policy of the State in the management of this tribe is to render them all necessary and proper aid, and hold out to them every encouragement in attaining the one, and acquiring the knowledge and practice of the other; and to this end, and in conclusion, I would respectfully request that such appropriations be made to this department as the wisdom of the Legislature may deem proper.

JAMES A. PURINTON, *Indian Agent.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 12, 1863.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of the reports of the agents of the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians be printed for the use of the Senate.

EZRA C. BRETT, *Secretary.*