

DOMINION OF CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE

1895

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OTTAWA

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the boys were sent here, their parents could very seldom see them. Indians are very much attached to their children. There are seemingly very few cases of child desertion among them.

I have again to thank Dr. Vernon Ardagh and the ladies connected with the Church Missionary Society for their kind instruction of the pupils in the Sunday School.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. SCOTT,
Principal.

INDIAN OFFICE, FRASER RIVER AGENCY,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 1st August, 1895.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report with tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1895.

List of government property in my charge was forwarded on the 5th July.

The year just ended has been rather an unfortunate one for the Indians residing on the Lower Fraser, in this agency.

Owing to the high water in the Fraser River last summer nearly all their crops were destroyed and a great portion of their fences washed away, which was a very serious loss and discouraged them very much.

A few Indians residing on each reserve who are more intelligent than other members of their respective bands set to work immediately after the floods had subsided and repaired their fences and planted some potatoes, barley and millet. The potatoes yielded fairly well, but the barley did not ripen, and was cut green and used for fodder.

The assistance rendered by the department in furnishing hay for cattle and horses belonging to those Indians whose hay crop was destroyed by reason of their fences having been washed away was very much appreciated by the Indians and it was most certain that only for the timely aid rendered, many of their stock would have perished during the winter. The following are a list of reserves that suffered most severely from the floods, viz.: Hope, Skaw-ab-look, Obamil, Squatits, Chehalis, Scowlitz, Sumass, Skwenahm, Nicomen, Skwah, Aitchelitch, Kwan Kwan-apilt, Skway, Squahla, Langley, Kaitsey, Coquitlam, and New Westminster.

As the fishing season was about to commence when the floods had subsided, most of the Indians left for the canneries, and did not return to their reserves until late in the fall, having gone to the hop fields to work after the canneries closed. In this manner most of them earned sufficient to keep them during the winter. A number of old Indians and some of those who were sick called on me for relief and medical attendance from time to time, which I rendered, first satisfying myself that the applicants were in destitute circumstances.

The Indians residing at Ho-mal-ko, Klahoose, Sliammon, Secheit, and Skwaw-amish, did not suffer any loss through the floods, and were able to live comfortably. These Indians depend chiefly on logging, hunting and fishing for their living. I have impressed upon them the advisability of their getting more ground cleared and cultivated, as hunting and fishing will become a more precarious livelihood year after year.

There is a reduction of 98 in the total number of Indians in this agency since sending in my last report. This reduction was not caused by an unusual number of

deaths during the past year, but is owing chiefly to the fact that I have been able to obtain a more accurate census. (It is most difficult to obtain a correct census of Indians scattered over a large area such as the Fraser Agency.)

There has been no contagious disease among the Indians under my charge during the past year, although a good deal of sickness has existed, chiefly la grippe, pneumonia and consumption.

I have had no difficulty in getting them to keep their premises in a clean and sanitary condition, as they realize the benefits to be derived from cleanliness.

The three schools in this agency, viz.: All Hallows, St. Mary's Mission and Coqualeetza Institute, have each been well attended, and are doing an excellent work for the Indian youth of this district. Too much praise cannot be given to those in charge of these schools for the attention and care bestowed on the children attending them. The pupils as a whole are making good progress with their studies.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK DEVLIN,
Indian Agent.

WILLIAMS LAKE AGENCY,

CLINTON, B.C., 22nd July, 1895.

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to inclose my annual report and tabular statement for the year ended 30th June, 1895, together with a list of government property in my charge at that date.

The Indians throughout the agency have had a fairly prosperous year. They raised good crops, and a great number of the able-bodied men find employment as packers, miners and farm hands.

Quite a number of the men of the Anderson Lake and Bridge River Reserves are engaged in gold mining, and doing well.

I regret to report that a few of the reserves show a decrease in population, the deaths being mostly children, from colds, as there has been no epidemic amongst the Indians of this agency. I have also to report the death of the chief of the Anaham Reserve. He was a very old man and much respected by whites and Indians, and ruled his band with a firm hand.

Great improvements are going on in the way of dwelling houses at nearly all the reserves, and some very comfortable buildings are being erected. Four new churches are being built, at each of the following reserves, viz.:—Alkali Lake, Kenim Lake, Stones and Williams Lake.

The children of the Williams Lake Industrial School, under the able management of the Rev. Father Lejacq, show a marked improvement in their studies since my last report. The rooms belonging to the institution are kept in excellent order.

The general conduct of the Indians has been good.

Relief was given to all sick and destitute during the year.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. BELL,
Indian Agent.