

U.S. OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE COMMISSIONER OF**  
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missing boys have died, and another lost an eye. They have been favored by a kind Providence with an abundant crop of corn and potatoes this season. The chiefs forwarded a petition last spring, asking for some horse carts, harness, and ploughs, in exchange for the services of the farmer. They have nothing by which they can make use of their horses, except one small wagon belonging to the assistant blacksmith, and an old cart belonging to the mission, which is kept in almost constant use. Several boxes of clothing have been received from the board of missions, and recently distributed. A commendable spirit of improvement is still manifested by most of the people.

Respectfully, yours,

P. DOUGHERTY.

WM. A. RICHMOND,  
*Acting Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

No. 17—D.

OTTAWA COLONY,  
October 1, 1848.

SIR: As education, in its primary and popular sense, is regarded of the first importance in Indian reform, I would submit the following report for the year ending this date. Winter term commenced on the return of the Indians from their fall and winter's hunt, which was in January. The school continued five weeks; after which time, they repaired to their sugar camp. The time allotted the children was improved, though they had a limited time for study.

Summer term.—The white and Indian children were united in this term; rising thirty scholars attended. The proficiency of the Indian pupils was flattering and encouraging to the teacher. It was a common remark that the Indian children surpassed the white children in decorum and studiousness. This term continued four months.

To elevate the condition of the adults, and to promote their intellectual powers, as a preparatory step, I have published the first rudiments of the new system for reading in their own vernacular tongue. I have distributed to the natives about one hundred elementary and reading books, which were earnestly solicited and attentively perused by those who could understand. Most of the families are furnished with copies of the sacred scriptures in their own language.

Arrangement is in progress to issue a monthly publication, which will contain, in the first number, the elements of the Ottawa, Chipewya, and Pottawatomie languages. The succeeding numbers will embrace the general news of the day, translations of the Scriptures, hymns, moral anecdotes, the lives of eminent persons of their own people and others, together with all useful and important matter which may have a tendency to awaken the affection of the soul

to the Master of Spirit. The reading will be of that character which will be approved by all evangelical denominations.

There is an actual reform in the habits of many in this colony. It was remarked by one yesterday, "Why, there are none who drink now of us, excepting two or three." They are more industrious and sober in their habits than formerly; they have enlarged their fields and commenced in earnest to raise wheat, with their other products. They raised one hundred and seventy bushels wheat, five hundred bushels corn, and three hundred bushels oats, the present season. They have broken up new land from twenty to thirty acres; they are now putting in thirty-five acres of wheat. Some of their dwellings are furnished with tables, chairs, regular bedsteads, and clocks.

Several individuals own light two-horse wagons; of which they make almost constant use in securing their products, going to mill, and, on the Lord's day, to attend divine worship.

It has been a pleasure to me the past season to conduct worship in their language. Their good attendance and apparent interest rendered my preparatory studies, and the promulgation of the gospel, pleasant and satisfactory.

With high respect, I remain your obedient servant,

L. SLATER,  
*Superintendent Ottawa colony.*

WM. A. RICHMOND, Esq.,  
*Indian Agent, Detroit.*

No. 17—E.

GRAND RAPIDS, November 1, 1848.

SIR: In presenting you with another annual report of the state of the colony of Ottawa Indians, subject to my supervision, I would remark, that I have nothing material to communicate different from the statement I had the honor to forward you for the preceding year.

The number of Indians, at present connected with the Griswold mission, is about one hundred and thirty-four. Eight have died; several have been baptized by the resident teacher and missionary, the Rev. James Selking, who very effectually continues to labor among them; several have been confirmed by the Right Rev. Samuel A. McCoskey, D. D., who annually visits them; and there is good reason to believe many of them are well imbued with the true spirit of the Christian religion. The progress of intemperance has been much checked, and we hope the time is not far distant when its ravages will be seen no more among them.

They continue to improve in agriculture, and, consequently, those who pay attention to this pursuit find its benefits in an increase of the comforts of living.

The number of children that has attended school, during the past year, is about thirty, though eighteen is the highest number present at any one time.

In this department some change has been made. The assistant teacher, hitherto, has been a native; but, though he was well qualified for the office, still it was found difficult to induce the Indian children to pay proper attention to his instructions. We have now engaged a white man for this service, who also receives a few white children into the school. The plan, thus far, works well; the Indian children are much pleased in being thus associated with the former, have their emulation at times much excited, and have made better progress in learning than before we adopted the present mode. We trust we shall continue to derive benefit from it, and that some of the Indian children, at least, will thus be made to see the importance of acquiring a good if not thorough education.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 F. H. CUMMING,  
*Superintendent of the colony of Ottawa Indians,  
 at the Griswold mission in the county of Allegan,  
 State of Michigan.*

Hon. W. MEDILL,  
*Superintendent, &c., &c.*

No. 18.

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN,  
 November 7, 1848.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in relation to the Indians of this sub agency, that they manifest, especially those located at a distance from the Sault, a disposition to improve their condition. Aware that game is decreasing rapidly, they devote greater attention to fishing, in which some have been successful; not less than 1,200 barrels have been sold by those at and around the Sault.

The potatoes, though promising at first, are in several places affected with the rot.

In the latter part of November last, there were a few cases of small pox at this place, of white persons. The Indians at Goulay's bay, on the Canadian side, had many cases of it; two from the Sault fell victims. Immediate steps were taken to vaccinate all that required vaccination. No case of small pox occurred amongst the Indians living within this sub-agency. Cases of erysipelas are now at the Sault; those of the Indians are of a mild type, and yield readily to medical treatment. Agricultural and other articles from the blacksmiths' shops have been issued to a greater amount than heretofore.

At Taquomenon and Neomekong they have been furnished with doors and window sashes for six houses, which will be occupied the approaching winter, and four others put up and covered.

With respect to the Ance Indians, I am glad to state that they are in a promising way of advancement.

It is reported to me that they have raised, and have of potatoes,

3,000 bushels; turnips, 500 bushels; amount of furs sold, \$2,500; barrels of fish taken, 500; maple sugar made, 1,400 pounds; 37 head of cattle; number of dwelling houses, 60; boats, 10; canoes, 40; white fish and trout gill nets, 250. The number of Indians at the Ance, 257.

Of the schools, the efforts made by the missionaries to get scholars, and impart to them proper instruction, are constant. The schools of the Sault and Little Rapids are not on the increase. At the examination of Rev. A. Bingham's school, (whose report is herewith, marked A,\*) in September, the Indian children were examined in reading, spelling, mental arithmetic and geography, in which they showed proficiency.

Of the advancement of the school at the Little Rapids, I have to refer you to the report of Rev. Wm. H. Brockway, marked B. From the Ance no other report has been received. The foregoing with the accompanying papers are respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,  
 JAMES ORD.  
 To WM. A. RICHMOND, Esq.,  
*Acting Supt. Indian Affairs, Detroit, Mich.*

No. 18—A.

MISSION HOUSE, SAULT STE. MARIE,  
 August 31, 1848.

SIR: In presenting to you this twentieth annual report of our mission, we would gratefully acknowledge the goodness of God, who has mercifully preserved our lives, and continued to us the measure of health by which we have been enabled to pursue an uninterrupted course of labor during the year.

The persons employed in the several departments of labor in this mission during the year are myself, Mrs. Bingham, Rev. James D. Cameron, Shyud, a native assistant, and Miss Adaline Culver, assistant school teacher.

A small boarding school has been regularly continued through the year. Since the last annual report, one mixed blood boy has been dismissed, and two orphan Indian boys, and one Indian girl, who is also destitute of parents, have been received.

Our present number of boarding scholars is seven—two boys and five girls. They are instructed in all the branches of labor, suited to their age and capacity, that comes within the range of the mission. We have had a good school taught through the year, with a vacation of one week at the close of each quarter.

The number of pupils enrolled on the catalogue for the several quarters varies from 27 to 67. The catalogue for the first quarter, ending September 24, 1847, contained 35—males 20, females 15.

\* Omitted to be sent.