

Confederation, 1867-97

256. Pon Sogmogneche, High Chief of the Algonquin and Nipissing Indians, addressed the following enquiry to the Commissioner of Crown Lands on July 25, **1868**:

Some time since I was given to understand that there was a tract of land granted to me for the use of my tribe of Indians in the Township of Lawrence on the Madawaska River. I wish to know if the boundary lines will be run and the lots laid out so that each one of my tribe settling will know his portion and I wish for a document from you as soon as practicable to shew that I have authority to settle without molestation on the said land and that it is laid apart for the use of my Indians.

[Document No. 412]

257. The Chiefs and warriors of the Algonquins at Lake of Two Mountains wrote a petition to the Secretary of State on July 31, **1868**. The main part of their petition was in regard to their conflict with the Sulpician Missionaries over rights at the mission. In addition they refer to dispossession of their hunting grounds and the issue of rent for the islands:

You that are our first Father on earth, we salute you, the chiefs and all the young warriors of our nation, and all the rest of the nation of Algonquins of this domain--our father whom we always loved, and still love--we ask you to hear our complaint and relieve us of our troubles. We see the smoke of the white man upon all of our grounds that we used to get our living; our privileges trod upon, and our lands taken from us; on that land that we now live, we have, as it were, nothing to say. The priests take all upon themselves and hinder us of our just rights. We want the same rights as our forefathers had, that is the control of our own lands. Some of the priests say that we still have the rights if we would look after them, that is, the privileges our forefathers had; the domain under our own control, instead of the priests controlling us. They, the priests, say, that we have no right to the Indian domain, but that they have the sole right. The priests make farms for the whites and leave very little for us; they are selling the wood very fast, and we are not allowed to sell any; they refuse to give us wood to build houses with, that is the reason why our nation are leaving the Lake of Two Mountains, and living abroad, very few remaining at the village.

The islands in the Ottawa were in our possession since before the whites came, and the Government wanted to build slides, and promised after they were built to pay us a yearly rent; it is now long ago (about 36 years), and we have had no benefit or money from the Government of them; also, our equipments were withdrawn from us. We were surprised at that from the Government; we were promised the equipments as long as we lived in this place; our fathers told us that. We are told now that we are under the laws of the whites, and we want the same privileges extended to us. The priests of this place forbid the whites to treat us the same as the white brethren. Since we are amenable to the laws of the Dominion we want the same privileges as the whites.

[Document No. 413]

258. On October 26, **1868**, Hector Langevin, the Secretary of State, prepared a memorandum dealing with the five grievances enumerated in a petition received from the "Algonquin Indians of Two Mountains", dated July 31, 1868. The response regarding their claim to islands in the Ottawa River which had been taken by Government without compensation is quoted below:

...
On the third point I have to observe that by the Act 14 & 15 Victoria Chapr. 106 a large tract of land is set apart for the use of certain Indian Tribes in Lower Canada (now Quebec) and that by an Order in Council of the late Province of Canada dated 9th August 1853, and passed in accordance with and under this last mentioned Statute 45,750 (forty five thousand, seven hundred and fifty)

acres of land in the Township Maniwaki or River Desert are set apart specially for the Têtes de Boule, Algonquins and Nipissingues Indians being the tribes hunting on the territory between St. Maurice and Gatineau, principally residing at the Mission of Lake of Two Mountains - Compensation has therefore been given to the Algonquin Indians that may have been appropriated by the Government on the Ottawa River.

...

[Document No. 416]

259. On December 22, 1869, several Mississauga Chiefs sent the following notice to Deputy Superintendent General William Spragge, claiming an interest in the lands north of "line 45":

We the undersigned do hereby certify that the last treaty was given in the year 1818. It extended 33 miles north until it strikes line 45, north of this it has never been ceded to the Crown.⁸¹

All the unceded tracts of land is claimed by the Rice, Mud and Scugog Lakes etc. in Council assembled by the desire and wishes of Paul De la Ronde.

[Document No. 417]

260. The following year, on May 19, 1870, Spragge prepared a report on the matter. Spragge concluded that rights to the northern tract had not been extinguished:⁸²

In comparing the surrenders of land beyond the old settled districts in the Counties of Durham and Northumberland executed by different Bands of Indians I did not find that the Townships which Paul La Ronde states were formerly used as hunting grounds by his father and himself and in addition thereto a very large tract of country now forming part of the Province of Ontario were included. My opinion therefore is that the title of the Rice Lake, Mud Lake, Scugog Lake and any other Bands who had territorial rights over that section of the Country has never been extinguished [emphasis added]. The Honourable Stephen Richards Comr. of Crown Lands, Toronto, was addressed by letter of 9th Feby. 1870 for the purpose of eliciting information as to whether in his office there were any records of surrenders other than those in the Indian Department relative to the District, alluded to; Mr. Richards has neglected replying to the questions put to him. But from ___ personal knowledge of the documents relating ___ copies recorded in that Department, I am ___ of the ___ that the Robinson Treaty of September 1850 extending from the east Coast of Lake Huron inland as far as the hunting grounds of the tribe ___ of Ojibway Indians on that coast extended to ___ the great tract often alluded to as the Valley of the Ottawa with the Indian title unextinguished. It is true that under the late Province of Canada military operations of great magnitude were carried on. Townships were laid-out in survey ___ Roads constructed at the cost of the Province and the Territory dealt with generally as ordinary Crown Land [emphasis added].

Notwithstanding however all this the principle that compensation has in every other instance been allotted to the Indians should be kept in view and I would submit whether as a compromise some adequate annuity ought not to be granted to the Mississagas and a deed of surrender from them executed.

This brings up the question as to whether the Government of the Province of Ontario might not be called upon to furnish funds for periodical payments of such an annuity to be for greater convenience capitalized. Within the territory in question are vast quantities of unsold land and on which still stand forests of merchantable lumber of great value.

[Document No. 418]

⁸¹ Lands in Ontario north of 45° include the western portion of the Ottawa River watershed in addition to land south and west of the watershed.

⁸² The lines (i.e. ___) appear in the texts on file which appear to be typed transcripts of the documents. The lines would thus indicate words illegible to the transcriber.

261. On May 23, 1870, Spragge wrote to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario regarding the tract to which the Mississaugas had voiced their claim:

I have the honor to bring under your notice the circumstance heretofore apparently overlooked, that in the Province of Ontario very important tracts of land exist, concerning which so far as can be ascertained the Indian title has not as yet been extinguished. The tract in question as exhibited in the accompanying traced map lies northwest of the lands surrendered on two separate occasions in the year 1822 westward of the Townships of Blythfield, Admaston, Bromley, Stafford and the Grand River, eastward of the lands ceded by the Robinson Treaty of September 1850 and southerly by Lake Nipissing and the waters flowing from it into the Ottawa River [emphasis added].⁸³

The Mississauga Tribe who occupy as their hunting grounds, considerable portions of this unceded lands [sic] would have claims to compensation in some other form, upon executing conveyances to the Crown similar to those to which they were parties in the year 1822, and the subject is accordingly brought under your consideration with a view to receiving due attention at your early convenience and the eliciting such proposals as may lead to a settlement of the Indian claims [emphasis added].

[Document No. 419]

262. Relations during the late 1860's and 70's between Father Déléage, Oblate Missionary, and the Indians at River Desert are referred to in Vol. VII of Gaston Carrière's Histoire Documentaire de la Congrégation des missionnaires oblate de Marie-Immaculée dans l'Est du Canada. For the purposes of this study, it is interesting to note that reportedly there were two groups at Maniwaki: "pure-blooded Algonquins" and "a mixture of all kinds of tribes and of various Métis." The Algonquin left the reserve to hunt:

...
Father Déléage affirmed, nonetheless, that he visited his 500 Algonquins, on 20 December, 1868, when he found them on the roadworks along the mission and in May, when they arrived at Maniwaki, he preached a retreat. These Indians lived generally as good Christians: they were docile, respectful and submissive. They would have formed a model population if the Whites had not brought them spirituous drinks.

We also know that in 1874, Father Pian contemplated building a chapel especially for these Indians, which would have simplified this minister's task, who practiced in the three languages, french, english and algonquin. On February 13, Father Pian affirmed to Monseigneur Duhamel that the grand chief approved the project, but the Father wanted to obtain the bishop's consent in writing. The Father added that he would be happy if the Indians could have their chapel in time for the bishop's visit. The Indians would have the pleasure of having Monseigneur Duhamel for an entire day and the whole would be done in the language of the natives. "We will be, said the Father in conclusion, almost as at Temiskaming and Abbitibbi."

Nothing changed from that point, and then at the beginning of January, 1875, war broke out between Father Déléage and the Indians. In essence, the chiefs were writing to Monseigneur Duhamel to complain of the missionary, who interfered in their temporal affairs and made them lose several hundreds of dollars. Being diplomatic, Monseigneur Duhamel was satisfied to respond that he wanted to hear the Father's version before ruling on anything, and that then he would do his best by them.

The chiefs were really in a bad mood. They answered, on February 27, that they had gone to Ottawa and that the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs had told them that their losses occurred from the influence of the big and little Father on the superintendent, Mr. Duncan Scott. They added that this had to stop.

⁸³ This description appears to exclude the Ottawa River watershed.

On March 3, Monseigneur Duhamel answered that Mr. David Laird had assured that Father Déléage had no part in this issue and that the Indians themselves hadn't wanted the money sent.

This was a matter of a family squabble among the Indians and Father Déléage explained the whole problem to Monseigneur Duhamel, on February 20, 1875. He confirmed that the Indians were divided into two camps: the pure-blooded Algonquins, the most numerous, the most moral, the most pure and the best. The other group was formed of a mixture of all kinds of tribes and of various Métis: The latter formed the majority, being mainly scottish Métis. They were the nastiest, drunkards, immoral, etc. They had been elected leaders in October because the pure-blooded Algonquins had almost all left for the hunt. The pure-blooded Algonquins were extremely irritated and came often to complain to the Father.

In the face of such accusations, this is what happened. The Father learned from one of the signatories to the petition that the Indians had themselves forbidden the government to send them money, as they foresaw the opposition of the Algonquins and, as a result, difficulties in the distribution of the allowances. They therefore asked the government to wait until they had reclaimed the money before sending it. The Father had gone to Ottawa, the preceding 3rd and 4th of February, to obtain the grants and was happy with the results.

The Indians added that they had lost \$200 or \$300 because of the Father. The Father responded that the sum they received was the largest ever granted. The author of the petition was in as foul a mood as these Indians; he was no longer in Maniwaki, he could now be found in the episcopal city and Father Déléage wished that the bishop would not complain of him ... [pp. 136-7]

[Translated from French]

[Document No. SS-16]

263. A reserve was set aside for Algonquin families "resident at or near Golden Lake" in September of 1873. The reserve was described as being 1,561 acres in South Algona, County of Renfrew, comprising lots 3 to 10 in the 9th concession and lots 5 to 10 in the 10th concession. The federal government purchased this land from the province for \$156, and letters patent were issued in trust to the Crown. [See Document No. 422.]⁸⁴
264. A census taken at Golden Lake in 1874, listed 97 Algonquins. Numbers were broken down by sex and age; no names were listed. [See Document No. 424.]
265. On April 1, 1875, Chief Nihias Makwa (writing from Vanbrugh, just south west of Lake Clear) petitioned the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs for a patent to the land he occupied on Lot 21 in Conc. 13 Sebastopol, County of Renfrew. This is the same land that Chief Mackwa, presumably his father, had been trying to secure tenure for since at least 1857:

I beg leave to request that you will be pleased to use your influence with the Government that a patent may be issued in my name for Lot 21 in the 13th Concession of Sebastopol Co Renfrew. I have been residing on said Lot for the last twenty-three years [i.e., since 1852] and have about 15 acres cleared on the same.

I enclose statement of one of my neighbors to certify to the above and if necessary can have it certified on oath.

⁸⁴ For a fuller account of the events surrounding the establishment of this reserve, consult Vol. 4, Part A - The Establishment of Reserves in the Vicinity of the Ottawa River Watershed: Golden Lake, Maniwaki, and Timiskaming.

Hoping you will be pleased to see justice done the poor Indian.

[Document No. 427]

266. On March 9, 1876, L. Vankoughnet, the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs succeeding Spragge, prepared the following report for the Indian Branch of the Department of the Interior concerning a petition of Paul de la Ronde, dated December 28, 1869:

On the 28th December, 1869, claimant filed a document signed (with their marks) by himself and two other indians, viz: Hester Wakaonah and Ann Wakaonah, at Rama, Ontario, (which is a Chippewa Reserve) setting forth that he (Paul De la Ronde) as the lawful heir of his uncle Wakaonah, (sic. Wahaonah) is entitled to certain Townships in Ontario,⁸⁵ which formerly composed the hunting grounds of his said Uncle, and the title to which, the document alleges, has never been extinguished. Accompanying this document was a certificate, dated December 22, 1869, signed (also with their marks) by the Chief and certain other members of the Mississauga Band of Rice Lake (to which Tribe Paul De la Ronde claims to belong) to the effect that no land in Ontario north of the 45 degree of North Latitude had ever been ceded by the Indians; and claiming all such unceded Territory on behalf of the Mississaugas of Rice, Mud and Scugog Lakes. This certificate was signed in Council at Rice Lake; and it is stated therein that it was so done by the desire and wish of Paul De la Ronde.

The tract claimed by the said Paul De la Ronde is comprised within the Territory claimed by his Tribe (The Mississaugas) and Paul was informed that whatever claim his Tribe might have, his individual interest in the land could not be considered apart from theirs.

The records of the Department fail, upon examination, to shew that the Indian title to the territory in question has ever been extinguished. This claim embraces a large area composed of many Townships in the Ottawa and Huron Territory laid out in survey by the old Province of Canada; as well as much unsurveyed land between the Ottawa River and Lake Huron.

On the 9th February, 1870, the Commissioner of Crown Lands was asked by letter if among the records of his Department, any trace of such a surrender could be discovered. No reply has ever been received. But a letter from one of the subordinate officers of the Department dated 17th of the same month, addressed to His Excellency the Governor General States that it would likely be established that no surrender of the territory in question had ever been made.

On the 23rd day of May, 1870, the late Superintendent General, the Honourable Joseph Howe, drew the attention of His Honor the Lieut. Governor of Ontario, to the matter, by official letter, with the request that the subject of the claims of the Indians interested, to annuities, for compensation in some form, upon executing a conveyance to the Crown might receive due attention at His Honor's early convenience. No reply has ever been received to that communication.

On the 17th March, 1870, Paul De la Ronde made another claim to payment of annuity, at the rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) per annum, since the year 1818, being the amount per capital paid the Mississauga Band annually since that year.

If Paul De la Ronde is a Mississauga Indian of any of the Bands resident at Rice, Mud or Scugog Lakes, and had continued to reside with his Band, he would have shared in the annuity payable to them. He appears, however, to have been resident at Caughnawaga for sometime and according to the regulations, he is incapacitated from sharing in the annuity of his Band. Paul was informed through his Agent, that his claim was not one the Department could recognize.

The undersigned also verbally explained to the applicant that his non-residence with his people incapacitated him from sharing in their moneys.

⁸⁵ Note townships claimed by de la Ronde included Sherborne, Stanhope, Livingstone, Havelock, Guilford, Lawrence, Eyre, and Harburn.

In view of the importance of the question to the Bands of Mississauga Indians interested therein the undersigned is of the opinion that the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario should be called to the correspondence had with his predecessor as well as with the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the subject and that His Honor should be moved to cause early action to be taken by His Government in the matter, in order that a settlement of the Indian claim may be made as soon as possible.

[Document No. 431]

267. On July 28, 1876, Patrick Moore, the Indian Agent at Maniwaki, advised A. Meredith, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, that Tête de Boules under Chief Jages were requesting assistance for farming at Lac Barrière:

Chief Michel Jages from Lake Bouryare of the Tudebute Band of Indians, wishes to know if you would be so kind, as to give him, and the party of Indians that he governs ninety nine (99) persons, Land at Lake Bouryare that is about one hundred and fifty miles north of Desert, where they now reside and some assistance to get some hoes, axes, grinding stones, and seed ...

[Document No. 434]

268. Subsequently on August 18, 1876, Deputy Minister Meredith advised Indian Agent Moore that:

... you will inform the Têtes de Boule Indians to which you refer that 45,750 acres on the River Desert in the Township of Maniwaki were set apart under the Statute 14 & 15 Vic. Chap. 106 for the use of the Têtes de Boule Algonquins and Nipissingues Tribes, hunting on the Territory between the Rivers St. Maurice & Gatineau, but the Depart. has no control over the land at the place described by you as their present places of residence. They should remove to and settle on the Reserve in Maniwaki and then the question of giving them seed grain and allowing them to share in the distribution of the Act money will be taken into consideration.

[Document No. 435]

269. Day, in the "Nipissing" chapter of the Handbook of North American Indians, contends that, after the mission at Lake of Two Mountains was abandoned in 1877, some Nipissings may have become integrated into Algonquin groups:

... following disturbances and the burning of the church in 1877, all of both groups [Nipissings and Algonquins] left. Some, perhaps all removed to Maniwaki ... but it is likely that the nominal Algonquin families and groups in the Ottawa Valley in the late nineteenth century derived at least in part from Lake of Two Mountains. These and the nominally Algonquin bands of Maniwaki and Golden Lake surely contain Nipissing descendants, but the destruction of the church records in 1877 prevents tracing Nipissing families in these groups.⁸⁶

[Document No. SS-26]

270. Father Guéguen, o.m.i., reported on Indians living at Grand Lac Victoria (Algonquins and Cree) each year from 1878 to 1888 as well as on his visits in

⁸⁶ Dr. M. Jean Black's study on ethnicity at Lake of Two Mountains was based on indepth examination of birth, marriage, and death records kept by the missionaries at the Sulpician mission and the Maniwaki reserve. She has concluded that the distinction between Algonquin and Nipissing is difficult to define and perhaps irrelevant. Individuals and families were often identified as Algonquin in one entry and Nipissing in another. Furthermore, Algonquins and Nipissings frequently intermarried and had much closer relations than any of the other peoples residing or visiting the mission. See Black, M. Jean. "A Tale of Two Ethnicities: Identity and Ethnicity at Lake of Two Mountains, 1721-1850." The documents quoted in this study indicate that Algonquins and Nipissing were visiting the mission at Oka less frequently from about the middle of the 19th century. Factors such as the cession of annual presents, disputes with the Sulpician missionaries and the presence of missionaries up the Ottawa Valley made the Lake of Two Mountains mission less and less attractive. [Document No. SS-4.]

1894 with the Indians along the Gatineau, Nicomis or Old Man's Creek (80 miles from Maniwaki), Baskatong, and the Lièvre River. He noted that the Indians who visited the HBC post at Grand Lac were made up of a group hunting on the Ottawa, Dumoine, and Coulonge Rivers (inside the watershed) and another group who used the Hudson Bay watershed:

...
In 1878, the Father again insisted on the difficulties of this mission [Grand Lac Victoria]. He found there two hundred Indians, all still very ignorant. It was the most difficult mission of all of the Saint-Maurice. In the last few years, these Indians would arrive at the post at the first navigation and were already preparing to leave when the missionary got there. They could be divided into two categories: those who hunted on the Ottawa, Dumoine, Noire or de Coulonge Rivers. They were educated enough and assisted assiduously in the mission. Drinking had disappeared. The others, Indians of the interior, hunted along the rivers tributary to Hudson's Bay. They used to run from the missionary, from which came the name of Wild Indians given them by a clerk of the Hudson's Bay Company. It took barely fifteen years for a missionary to succeed in baptizing the headmen of the tribe. These people gave themselves up to trickery and polygamy.

The following year, there were new consolations at Grand Lac, where Father Guéguen met with almost all of the Indians of the interior and who demonstrated a serious desire to learn to read, to know their prayers and to study catechism; in one word, the missionary said, they wanted to know and serve the good Lord. These Indians began to cultivate and, if they were perseverant, there would be a lovely colony.

Father Guéguen returned to Grand Lac every year until 1888, inclusively. After this date, various missionaries were put in charge of this post, while the Father devoted himself to [another stage?]. He continued, however, to interest himself in his former mission and, in 1894, he managed to accompany the new missionary, Father Laniel, who still did not perfectly know Algonquin. They stayed for fifteen days at the mission and Father Guéguen had the pleasure of ascertaining that the mission had made great progress since the six years that he had seen it. The Indians of the interior (Wild Indians), rebels for so long, appeared desirous of learning the prayers. Across this mission, there were eleven baptisms made, three marriages and six deceases registered. [p. 121-122]

...

... Upon returning to Grand Lac, Algonquin and Cree were studied, and in the winter, the work of the lumberyards took over on the Kuoio, Coulonge Rivers and the head of the Gatineau River. The residence became a link between Temiscamingue and Maniwaki and, in thirty years, the apostolic curate would probably be surprised at the progress of settlement. [p. 160]

...

In his letter [of February 24, 1894], Father Guéguen announced that he had visited the lumberyards and the Indians along the Gatineau River and that he ended up eighty miles from Maniwaki at a place known under the name of Nicomis or of Old Man's Creek, which flowed into the Gatineau, on the right shore. The diocese of Ottawa should be extended further than this post on the Gatineau River. [emphasis added]

The Father had also taken a census of the Indians and had seen nine families and had found the names of twenty-five others who did not belong to Maniwaki. In January, one hundred and fifty families could be found at the post, not counting the eleven families of Baskatong of the Ferme de l'Île [Island Farm]. At sixty or seventy miles from Nicomis the great lake Majamegos was found, on the Lièvre River, where Pisan and his band continued to hunt. These people did not have to do much to get to the Nicomis mission without seriously worrying the priest of the Lièvre River. This mission was also found in the middle of hunting territory. [emphasis added]

The year before, the Hudson's Bay Company had abandoned its post of Mekiskan and most of its Indians ended up at Nicomis. They found themselves

outside the pathway of the Saint-Maurice missionary and subject to never having a mission at all. This residency would render a service to the Indians living at the head of the Gatineau and Lièvre Rivers, abandoned as they were from other posts. This would be at last a foundation for the settlement of the diocese of Ottawa, as there was land favourable to cultivation there. [p. 162]
...

[Translation from French]

[Document No. SS-17]

271. A list of Indians resident at Golden Lake in June 1878 included 20 heads of families, totalling 69 people. [See Document No. 439.]
272. Two letters dated August 1878, one from three Chiefs at River Desert and one from the Indian Agent, indicate that an unspecified number of families visited the reserve annually to receive annuity payments but lived off the reserve and supported themselves by hunting. The Chiefs wanted these people struck off the annuity payroll. Indian Agent Moore's letter is as follows:

The River Desert Indian Chiefs has called on me And wishes me to inform you that he would be very thankful if you would be good enough [sic] to give them permission to make a change in the Paylist of the anual [sic] distribution mony [sic], As they say the [sic] wish to give the mony to any of the Indians that will come and make a home and till the land in Maniwaki And all the old and feeble Indians belonging to the Desert should receive more mony then the other Indians.

But those Indians that goes away to hunt in August and do not return unto [sic] the next July or August and some of them for one year some two three and four years And always causes great truble [sic] in paying them as they are never here in proper time and comes merely to obtain thier [sic] share of the distribution And squanders it with no benefit to themselves And takes the mony from those Indians that remains here trying to live on the land, where these is no hunting to be had. And they Chiefs thinks by stoping [sic] those hunters of getting mony it will be the cause of them settling here so as the [sic] will receive their part of the distribution.

[Document No. 442]

The letter from the River Desert Chiefs is dated August 24, 1878. [See Document No. 443.]

273. When Niven surveyed the township of Nightingale in the summer of 1878 he noted two "Indian" clearings. [See Document No. 445.]
274. When James Dickson surveyed Ballantyne Township in the summer and fall of 1879 he met with "Indians" who gave him information on the waterways of the area. [See Document No. 448.]
275. The Annual Reports for the Department of Indians Affairs gave summary information on Algonquin reserves on the Quebec side of the Ottawa Valley during the 1880s. The reserve at River Desert was described as being owned by the Algonquin and Tête-de Boule Tribes. [See Document No. 467, p. xxv; Document No. 473, p. xxi.] They practiced agriculture on their reserve and worked for wages in the lumber industry; the "Tête-de-Boule portion of the community do not pay so much attention to farming as the Algonquins. The former live chiefly by the chase; a few of them, however, work for lumbermen." [See Document No. 467, p. xxvi.] In 1885 the

agent reported that about half of the population farmed, while the other half lived by trapping or working for lumbermen. Those that farmed "join in the hunt in the winter." Their fur catch in 1885 was valued at \$5,100. [See Document No. 475, p. xxii-xxiii.] In 1887 their hunt was reported to be "very successful," but the value of furs was not given. [See Document No. 479, p. xxxi.] The on-reserve population was reported as 410 in 1883 and 1885; it had increased to 440 in 1887. [See Document No. 479, p. xxx.]

The Algonquins occupied another reserve at Lake Temiscamingue. These Algonquins supported themselves by fishing, hunting, and commercial trapping. The 1883 population was 136. [See Document No. 467, p. xxvi.] In 1887, they numbered about 200 souls, who supported themselves "in comfort by hunting and fishing," supplemented in some instances by farming to a limited extent. Some families resided near the Hudson Bay post.⁸⁷ [See Document No. 479, p. xxxi.]

276. In 1880, the Indian Agent at Maniwaki reported that Têtes de Boules had hunting grounds around the upper Gatineau. [See Document No. 449.]⁸⁸

277. On October 19, 1880, L. Vankoughnet, the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, pursuing his research on the Golden Lake reserve, addressed the following questions to Mr. Benson:

The original grant to the Inds. of Golden Lake was 1,561 Acres,

1. How much of this tract is cultivated as shewn by Mr. Agent George's Tabular Statement
2. How many houses & barns have been erected?
3. What quantity of each kind of produce has been raised?

The reply from Mr. Benson, written on the same memo, provided the following information:

1. Mr. Georges Tabular Statement gives the no. of acres in the Res. as 1400. 120 acres of which are under cultivation 125 acres in pasture & the balance woodland.
2. There are seven log houses 16 wigwams or shanties & 13 barns & stables on the Res.
3. The return of crops raised last year was as follows 100 bushels corn. 80 bus wheat. 100 bus oats. 12 bus peas 300 bus Rye 200 bus potatoes & 13 tons hay. (there are 83 Indians in the Band)

[Document No. 453]

278. In January of 1881, the Indians of the Rouge and North Nation Rivers sent a petition to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs asking for reserve land:

The petition of the undersigned Indians of the Rouge and North-Nation Rivers humbly sheweth that whereas the county in the neighbourhood of the aforesaid Rivers having been surveyed and is now becoming thickly settled and as a

⁸⁷ There was a Hudson's Bay Company trading post at Lake Timiskaming from 1821-1891, previously there were posts operated by the North West Company (1795-1821) and Independent Traders (1760-1795).

⁸⁸ October 11, 1880, Indian Agent Charles Logue's annual report. Dominion of Canada Annual Report of the Department of Indian Affairs for the year ended 31st December 1880. Ottawa: 1881 pp. 33-4.

consequence the forest game our precious means of subsistence are being gradually but surely destroyed or driven off it has become necessary for your petitioners to give up our former occupations of hunting and trapping and begin some other means for the sustenance of our familys and being very poor and unable to buy land from the Government and our familys 2000 acres of land and we would like it to be in the Township of Labelle in the Co of Ottawa and if not able to get that then somewhere near if it so please you, and (as we have already said) being very poor and some of us having large family assistance in the way of furnishing us with farming tools, seed grains, and provision would be very thankfully received and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

[Document No. 455]

279. The above petition was transmitted to the Indian Department by Mr. Thomas Christie, the Agent in LaChute, with a covering letter dated March 15, 1881. In his letter, Christie added the following comments:

The enclosed petition on behalf of a number of Indian families residing on the River Rouge in rear of the County of Argenteuil⁸⁹ was sent to my by (generally called Chief Joseph) I am aware that the land which they ask for belongs to the Quebec Government, but the Dominion Government, will give them a grant of land in the northwest or elsewhere.

[Document No. 458]

280. The Indian Department sent a reply to the petition to Thomas Christie on March 28, 1881:

... I have to inform you that the land in question is under the control of the local Gov. of Quebec and the only way it could be acquired by the Indian would be by purchase. If the families are settled upon different lots and have made improvements thereon & these lots have not been otherwise disposed of by the Crown Lands Department at Quebec I presume they would have little or no difficulty in purchasing them & this Dept. might come to their assistance in paying their installments upon the land. Crown Lands generally in the Province of Quebec are sold at the price of 30 per acre. The quantity of land applied for seems out of proportion to the needs of Indians, namely 60 families (?). It appears to me if they purchase 700 or 800 acres it would be amply sufficient for all their requirements. With regard to furnishing them with necessary implements and seed grains the Department would be glad to obtain a statement of what implements & seed grains would be sufficient for them; and the quantities stated should [illegible] to their actual needs.

The Department does not supply provisions to Indians unless they are in circumstances of very extreme poverty.

[Document No. 459]

281. On September 23, 1881, J. B. Nanegisking, Chief of Rama, and other Chippewa and Mississauga Chiefs, sent the following petition to Sir John A. MacDonald, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs:

The petition of the Band of Indians of The Ojebwa and Mississauga Tribe with their Chiefs in General Council Assembled.
Humbly sheweth,
That at a general council of the Band of Indians of the Ojebwa and Mississauga Tribe with their Chiefs assembled at the Township of Rama to take into consideration the terms or conditions they would be willing to give up their title to that portion or Territory of Land south of the Water shade [sic shed] of the Ottawa and near that vicinity which they still own and claim and which has never been ceded to the Crown [emphasis added].⁹⁰

⁸⁹ A small county along the Ottawa River extending from Rigaud to just west of Point Fortune.

⁹⁰ Note the chiefs and councillors described their unceded land as being south of the watershed of the Ottawa, not south of the Ottawa River. This suggests they were not claiming the Ottawa Valley but a tract southwest of the height of land.

It was resolved to surrender the whole Territory still unceded to the Crown provided the Crown gave them reasonable compensation, therefore with the understanding that each band received an equal share of the compensation for said Territory.

It was also resolved to appoint Joseph G. Nanegisking Chief of the Rama Tribe and M.G. Pahtansh of Rice Lake Tribe to confer and act for us with the Crown and Transact all business in connection with the disposal of our rights to said Territory and we also authorize them to have and to hold all communications in connection with the disposal of said Territory and to sign all documents on our behalf. Your Petitioners therefore pray that you see that the Tribe be liberally compensated as this is the last Territory they have to cede away and your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

[Document No. 460]

282. The Inspector's report on Golden Lake dated October 1882 noted that "several of the Indians were away from home, hunting, or employed in the lumber woods." The following statement suggests that hunting and fishing remained important to the reserve residents: "... when lumbering ceases in this section, which it must in a few years, and hunting and fishing become less productive, they will be even more dependent on the Department ...". [See Document No. 462, pp. 9, 15-16.]

A letter written by the agent the following year noted that "they will all be home Christmas from hunting." [See Document No. 466.]

283. A resolution passed by the Alnwick Mississaugas on February 4, 1884, was forwarded to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs on March 11, 1884, by John Thackeray, Indian Agent, who made the following comments on the extent and location of the land being claimed. Note they claimed land within the Ottawa River watershed:

Attached hereto please find a resolution passed by the Indians of the Alnwick Band in general Council assembled proposing to surrender all lands to which they may have any claim excepting those therein reserved for the sum of \$80,000. The band claims that they were the owners of certain lands lying north of the Township of Ramdon [sic Rawdon] in the County of Hastings and extending north of the Ottawa River and which was never surrendered by them [emphasis added]. I have no means of ascertaining the exact limits of the land to which they lay claim neither have they. Mr. Plummer has given the matter considerable study and no doubt will be able to give you all the information required.

[Document No. 470]

The actual resolution referred to unsundered lands without describing them. [See Document No. 469.]

284. On October 2, 1884, Deputy Superintendent General Vankoughnet prepared the following memorandum regarding the Chippewa and Mississauga Claim. He described the claim as encompassing part of the Ottawa Valley and lists the Indians interested in the lands:

Referring to the memorandum of the undersigned of the 11th of March, 1881, and his subsequent memo of the 22nd of November, 1882, and the Superintendent General's instructions thereon relative to the claims of the Chippewas of Lakes Huron and Simcoe and certain Mississauga Bands in respect of a large section of country which was improperly included in the

surrender made by the Ojibeways of Lake Huron in 1850, under what is generally known as the Robinson Treaty, - the undersigned is informed that the Treasurers of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec will probably meet in Ottawa about the 20th instant and he has been asked by The Deputy Minister of Finance to submit any claims that the Department may have for consideration previously to the meeting of the two Treasurers.

The undersigned having given the matter of the claims of the Indians above referred to due consideration begs to state as the result that the present number of Indians who would appear to be interested in the lands previously referred to in [sic] 1,227, made up as follows, -

Chippewas of	Beausoliel,	381
"	Snake Island,	137
"	Rama,	248
Mississaugas of	Mud Lake,	158
"	Rice Lake,	94
"	Alnwick,	231
"	Scugog,	41
<u>Total,</u>		1,227

and the tract of country which they claim to have been their hunting grounds and for which they demand compensation from the Government comprises that portion of the territory included in the Robinson Treaty which is nearest to the great centres of civilization and is therefore, it may be concluded, the most valuable part of the territory covered by that Treaty. Roughly computed the southern part of the tract contains 5,406 square miles and this and the more remote north eastern portions thereof which contain together 10,719 square miles may be described as extending from Moose Deer Point on Georgian Bay inland to the Southern extremity of a right line drawn Northward and touching the Eastern border of Lake Nipissing thence South to the 45th degree of Latitude; from thence East⁹¹ to the Georgian Bay; thence South following the sinuosities of the Easterly shore of that body of water to a point near East Oro, thence Eastward to the shore of Lake Simcoe, thence Northward following the sinuosities of the Westerly shore of Lake Couchiching to the head of that Lake, thence North Easterly through the Townships of Morrison and Muskoka to the North-Eastern corner of the latter Township thence following the 45th degree of latitude Eastward until the same strikes the Westerly corner of the Township of Ashby, thence Easterly along the Southern boundary of that Township and of the Townships of Denbigh, Matawatchan, and Brougham to the South Eastern corner of the latter Township, thence North following the Eastern boundary of the last named Township and of the Townships of Grattan, Wilberforce, Alice, Petawawa, and Buchan to the Ottawa River, thence North Westerly following the Sinuosities of the Western shore of the latter stream to the 47th degree of latitude on Seven League Lake, thence by a line running southward to the angle made by it and the right line previously described drawn from Moose Deer Point Eastward, thence Westward to Moose Deer Point the place of beginning aforesaid.⁹²

The undersigned submits that although the territory included in the above boundaries is not so extensive as the remainder of the territory covered by the Robinson Treaty with the Ojibeway Indians of Lake Huron which contains about 18,898 square miles, nevertheless owing to a large proportion of it being much nearer to the large centres of population it is much more valuable, and it would not be unfair to assume that the Indians interested in this territory are therefore entitled to as much consideration for the relinquishment of their rights therein as the Ojibeways of Lake Huron received in compensation for their rights in a not more valuable tract. The undersigned therefore submits that an annuity of a similar amount, namely; \$4.00 per head should be allowed these Indians for the future, and that they are entitled to arrears of annuity at that rate from the date of the Treaty of 1850 to which they were not parties, although this large and valuable tract was erroneously included therein and has been lumbered over and used for the purposes of settlement ever since without any reference to the claims of these Indians.

Taking the present number of Indians as a basis for the calculation it will be found that at \$4.00 per head the amount of annuity payable to them will be

91 It is not known whether "East" is an error.

92 This description includes the western portion of the Ontario side of the Ottawa River watershed.

\$4,908.00 and at this rate the arrears due them for the thirty-four years since the date of the Robinson Treaty of 1850 amount to \$166,872.00. The proportion of this sum which should have been paid previous to the confederation of the Provinces in 1867 should be charged against the old Province of Canada, and the balance against the Province of Ontario. The amount of capital which it will be necessary to invest in Government securities at 4% in order to purchase an annuity of say in round numbers \$5000.00 per annum will be \$125,000.00. This latter obligation the undersigned respectfully submits it is incumbent upon the Province of Ontario to assume by placing the Dominion in funds to enable this Department to pay the Indians annuity at the above rate.

It may be added that these Indians are becoming very impatient for the settlement of their claims and they repeatedly press the same upon the Department. The undersigned respectfully recommends that this matter be brought before the Treasurers of Ontario and Quebec at their next meeting with a view to an arrangement being made for liquidating the liability of the Old Province of Canada and of the Province of Ontario to the Indians above mentioned.

[Document No. 471]

285. On June 10, 1886, Vankoughnet wrote to Sir John A. Macdonald, the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, outlining the removal of Indians from Oka to Gibson, near Georgian Bay. The following excerpt relates to Indians who formerly visited Lake of Two Mountains:

...
There are quite a number of Oka Indian families scattered at different points in the Province of Ontario and Quebec who have for years not resided at Oka. It appears to the undersigned that it would be advisable to endeavour to induce all those families to remove to the Gibson Reserve. There is plenty of land for them in that tract and good land, and there are other facilities for their obtaining a subsistence, and they would be much better situated than living as they are in camps in the vicinity of towns and villages where they and their children are subject to contaminating influences. The undersigned considers that it would be well to employ some of the money voted by Parliament, for the removal of those scattered camps of Oka Indians to the Gibson Reserve, and he respectfully recommends that steps be taken towards that end.

[Document No. 476]

286. On November 4, 1886, Chief Nogon-nak-suk-way forwarded the following request for lands in Lawrence Township to L. Vankoughnet. Chief Nogon-nak-suk-way's return address was a post-office near Barry's Bay:

I am requested by the Chief Non-non-She-Gushig and his Band to make enquiries in their behalf the Said Chief & His Band belong to the Algonquin Nation of Canada and were once Settled at Oka with the other Tribe the iriouquois [sic]. But the property there not Belonging to them moved off the Lands they were Living on. This took place some years ago and the consequences were they were neglected through their own fault by the Indian Department that is they were not recognized as a Band.⁹³ Neither do they share in the same privileges as the other Bands in this Province.

The Chief and Band now Desire unitedly to locate on some good land that they might See fit for Farming purposes in the Township of Lawrence or in some other. And such Lands if found to be set apart for them as an Indian reserve.

[Document No. 477]

287. On November 19, 1886, Vankoughnet replied to the request as follows:

⁹³ These people had begun petitioning for land on the Madawaska in the Township of Lawrence as early as 1863. The southeast quarter of Lawrence was reserved from sale for their use in 1866. [Document Nos. 1863/07/21 and 1866/07/18.]

I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th Inst. applying on behalf of Chief Non-mon-she-keeshins and his Band, who belong to the Algonquin nation and who were at one time settled at Oka but moved off the lands there in consequence of those lands not being the property of the Indians, and who wish to be located upon some land fit for farming purposes in the Tp. of Lawrence.

I beg in reply to state that the Algonquin Band of Indians have a Reserve on the River Desert in the Tp. of Maniwaki on the Upper Ottawa where there is plenty of land to accommodate them. If the Indians referred to will go to that Reserve a lot of 100 Acres of land will be assigned to each head of a family and to each young man able to work the same. The lands in that Tp. are very good for farming purposes, and there is good fishing and hunting in the vicinity, also employment can be had by Indians in the shanties of lumber men during the winter months and in running rafts, etc. in the Spring and Summer.

[Document No. 478]

288. Three pieces of correspondence dating from February of 1888 discussed the petition of Algonquins in Lawrence to obtain alternate land in Haliburton, Hastings or near a market town such as Maynooth. The locations would have been outside the watershed. The following letter dated February 2, 1888, stated that the petitioner was the chief of 30 families or 150 people:

It seems that the South East quarter of the township of Lawrence has been reserved for the Algonquin Indians, their Chief Non-no-che-ke-schick has requested me to write to the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs to have that reserve cancelled in exchange for some other nearer a market.

I thought it best to write you in the matter instead of Mr. Vankoughnet as the most direct way of getting information. It seems that the above Township is too much out of the way and to [sic] long a distance from any market, the hunting in that part of the country is poore [sic] game and fur booth [sic] being very scarce.

I think they would prefer part of a Township in this county or in the County of Haliburton but this county is preferred. The Chief tells me that there would be about thirty families making a population of about 150.

Any information you send me I will communicate to the Chief.

...

[Document No. 480]

289. The Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs wrote to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs outlining the tenure of the land in Lawrence and recommending that the matter be investigated, on February 16, 1888, as follows:

With reference to Mr. J. B. Cleak's letter of the 2nd Instant stating that he writes at the request of Chief Non-no-che-ke-shick of the Algonquin Indians to have their Reserve, consisting of the south East quarter of the Township of Lawrence, which is situated on the River Madawaska, exchanged for some land nearer a market, and that he, Mr. Cleak, thinks the Indians would prefer part of a Township in the County of Hastings or Haliburton, but that the former County is preferred by them; and that the Chief states there would be about thirty families consisting of about one hundred and fifty souls who would occupy the said Reserve, - the undersigned begs to state that the South East quarter of the Township of Lawrence was set apart by the Crown Lands Department for the Indians in question in the year 1860 "during the pleasure of the Crown", the stipulation being that, while the Indians might occupy it and use the land, they were not to have any right to the merchantable timber thereon nor to interrupt parties holding timber licenses covering the same from cutting and carrying off the timber.

The undersigned begs to state that in his opinion it would be necessary:-

1. To have a resolution passed by the Indians for whom the Reserve in Lawrence was set apart to the effect that they wish to exchange the said Reserve and specifying the land which they desire to obtain in lieu thereof.
2. After the views of the Indians had been learned in matter, that a competent person should be requested to report upon the adaptability for an Indian Reserve or the tract selected by them.
3. That if the report received be favorable, the Government of Ontario should be applied to for an exchange of the tract in Lawrence for the land selected by the Indians.

[Document No. 481]

290. Mr. Cleak was instructed to have the Indians write a resolution regarding their wish to exchange land. [See Document No. 482.] No further correspondence on this issue was found until 1894.
291. In the years 1915 and 1923 Speck was informed by River Desert Algonquins that before the Algonquins were removed from Lake of Two Mountains their hunting grounds were between the River Rouge on the west, the Mattawin (Mattawa) in the North and the Black River on the east. Speck noted that the northern limit drawn to the Mattawin corresponded to the southern limit described by the Têtes de Boule and recorded by Davidson in 1925. [See Document No. SS-59, p. 116.]
292. In 1888 the Agent of the River Desert Band reported that 110 of 455 band members had been absent from the reserve for several years. In addition, he reported that three quarters of the Band hunted during the winter. [See Document No. 484, Annual Report for 1889, pt. 1, pp. 27-8.]
293. The Annual Reports for the Department of Indians Affairs gave summary information on the Algonquin reserve at Golden Lake during the 1890s. The Agent reported that farming efforts had been productive and "Those who devote part of their time to fishing, hunting and trapping have also been fortunate." [See Document No. 486, p. 117-8.] In 1895 the Agent again reported that, with the exception of four old and infirm families, the Golden Lake residents were supporting themselves well "between farming and hunting." [See Document No. 513.] In 1896 he reported that "Very few of the Indians have much taste for farming. I might say there are only three who farm to any extent, while the rest prefer to hunt and work on the river in the spring for the lumbermen." [See Document No. 532, p. 1.]
294. On February 11, 1893, A. White, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Crown Lands of Ontario, provided the following information to Aemilius Irving regarding "the Indians of Algona" [Golden Lake]. White concluded that the Algonquins in question were "not in any position to make any claims against the Province of Ontario":
 - I have your letter of the 8th inst. in reference to "the Indians of Algona," in connection with whom you say you have no papers, and asking if we have any to send them.
 - The Indians of Algona consist of a few families who seem to have belonged to indigent tribes resident in Lower Canada and who had no annuities or interest accruing from any land funds. They squatted in the township of South Algona, and remained there hunting and fishing for a great many years as mere squatters.

In 1859, application was made by the Indian Department to the Department of Crown Lands, asking that the lands which they occupied might be sold to them, and by Order in Council of 29th January 1864, 1561 acres of land in the township of South Algona were sold on behalf of the Algonkin Indians at ten cents an acre, and patent issued to the Department of Indian Affairs in trust for these Indians. It was just an ordinary sale of lands, and they do not seem to have any claims or to be making any claims, so far as the papers on file here show. If you still desire to see the papers, I shall be very happy to send them to you; but as Superintendent General Pennefather, in his letter of the 14th January 1859 addressed to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, when asking for a sale of these lands to the Indians, says "the individual Indians on whose behalf application is made are all members of indigent tribes resident in Lower Canada, and have no annuities or interest accruing from the land funds whence the Department could make any payment for them", it would appear to be clear that they are not in a position to make any claims against the Province of Ontario.

[Document No. 491]

295. On May 6, 1895, W. D. Hogg, Council for the Dominion Government, filed before the Board of Arbitrators the following "Statement of Case of the Dominion on behalf of the Chippewa Indians of Lake Huron and Simcoe, and the Mississauga Indians of Mud Lake, Rice Lake, Alnwick and Scugog". It was Canada's position that the Chippewas and Mississaugas had unextinguished interest in part of the Ottawa River watershed:

1.

The above-named Indians have for many years claimed and do now claim that a certain large tract of land, which is hereinafter set out and referred to, formed the hunting grounds and abode of their ancestors; and that the title of the said Indians to these lands has never been surrendered to the Crown.

2.

The lands, with respect to which the Indians allege that their title has not been extinguished by treaty or surrender to the Crown, comprise all that tract of land in the Province of Ontario containing approximately ten thousand seven hundred and nineteen square miles, bounded on the north by the Ottawa River, on the east by the surrender of the 8th Nov., 1822, on the south by the said surrender, by the surrender of 5th Nov., 1818, and 18th Nov., 1815, and by Lakes Simcoe and Conchiching [sic], and on the west by the Georgian Bay and the lands of the Ojibewas of Lake Huron, ceded by them on the 9th September, 1850, and which lands may be more particularly described as follows: - COMMENCING on the Georgian Bay at the northeastern angle of the surrender of the 18th Nov., 1815; thence southerly and easterly following the boundaries of the said surrender to the westerly shore of Lake Simcoe; thence northerly following the said westerly shore of Lake Simcoe and the westerly shore of Lake Conchiching [sic] to the foot of the said Lake Conchiching [sic]; thence northerly and easterly along the boundaries of the surrender of the 5th Nov., 1818 to the northeastern angle of the said surrender; thence easterly and northerly along the boundaries of the surrender of the 8th Nov., 1822, to the Ottawa River; thence up the said Ottawa River to the point where it crosses the 47th parallel of latitude; thence southerly and easterly along the boundaries of the lands of the Ojibewas of Lake Huron, ceded by them on the 9th September, 1850, to Moose Deer Point on the Georgian Bay; thence southerly following the easterly shore of the Georgian Bay to the point of COMMENCEMENT, excepting thereout and therefrom certain Island at the foot of Lake Conchiching [sic] and in the head waters of the Severn River, that are claimed by the Indians as their property.

3.

Prior to Confederation the said lands were dealt with by the Province of Canada and portions thereof were sold and disposed of as crown lands, but no portion of the proceeds of the said sales was paid to the Indians or any compensation made to them by the said Province of Canada.

4.

The Indians above named assert that although the said land now forms part of the Province of Ontario and has been surveyed and used by that Province, and has been laid out into townships, and portions of it have from time to time been sold and conveyed, and the full benefit and advantage of the said land has been enjoyed by the said Province of Ontario, in the same manner as if the title of the said Indians had been surrendered and extinguished; yet the said tribes, and bands of Indians have never been in any way compensated for or in respect to their title and interest in the said lands.

5.

The claim of the Indians for compensation has, on many occasions, been brought by the Dominion to the notice of Ontario, and although that Province has acknowledged that no surrender or extinguishment of the Indian title to the said lands has ever taken place, yet Ontario has refused and declined to acknowledge the claim of the said Indians to be compensated, the allegation of that Province being that the Dominion and not Ontario must compensate the Indians, for their right title and interest in the said lands.

6.

The Dominion, on behalf of the said Indians, claims that the said lands came into the hands and possession of Ontario under the 109 section of the British North America Act, 1867, subject to the Indian title thereto, which was and is an interest in the lands "other than that of the Province in the same," and that the said title and interest of the Indians are still outstanding and unsurrendered.

7.

The Indians have, on many occasions since the date of the Union, signified their willingness to the Dominion to cede and surrender their claims in and upon the said lands upon receiving proper compensation therefor, and the Dominion has brought the question of this desire on the part of the Indians to the notice of Ontario, and has requested that some fair and equitable settlement of the claims of these Indians, should be made; but up to the present time, no step has been taken by Ontario towards making such settlement.

8.

In the year 1884, the number of Indians forming the several bands interested in the said lands, and who would be entitled to share in any compensation which may be granted was 1227, made up as follows:-

Chippewas of Beausoliel,	381
" Snake Island,	137
" Rama,	248
Mississaugas of Mud Lake,	158
" Rice Lake,	94
" Alnwick,	231
" Scugog,	41
<u>Total.</u>	1,227

and at the present time the numbers are about the same. The Dominion therefore submits that in view of the valuable character of the said land, being to a large extent situated in, or close to the centres of population, the Indians should receive from and be paid by the Province of Canada and the Province of Ontario a liberal allowance and indemnity, for their interest and title in the said lands, for the respective periods during which the said lands were comprised in either of the said Provinces; and that Ontario should hereafter provide an annuity for the said Indians, or that a lump sum should be provided by Ontario and paid to the Dominion from which the Indians might receive and be paid annuities in the future.

9.

The Dominion, on behalf of the said Indians, submits the said claim to the consideration of the arbitrators, and prays for an award which will answer, and provide for, the just claims and demands of the Indians entitled in the premises.

296. Requests for a reserve in the Township of Lawrence were revived in 1894 under Chief Peter Sharbot. The Chief stated that they had been in occupation for 45 years. [See Document No. 500.] The claim was to be investigated by Crown Lands. [See Document No. 503.] The Superintendent of Algonquin Park was instructed to examine the requested lands in Lawrence. [See Document No. 512.] Chief Sharbot made another inquiry in September 1895, at which time he submitted a list of families totalling 46 people. [See Document No. 514.] The report of the inspection by Superintendent Thomson was not made as he died before he could write a report. [See Document No. 517.] The final reply of the Crown Lands Department to the Algonquin request is contained in the following letter which also describes the location of a number of Indian families:

...
It appears from the report that Mr. Thomson [Superintendent of Algonquin Park] visited the township in August last, that he did not find a single Indian settler in the township, and the only attempt at clearing or settling which he found was a small improvement, if it could be called such, made by one Francois Antoine, which consisted of an attempt to clear up part of lots 3 and 4 in the 9th and 10th Cons. the nature of the work being roughly underbrushing in the Indian style about 1 1/2 acre [sic]. He states that the nature of the land in the township is such that it is well adapted for settlement, the greater part of the township being fine, arable, rolling land, dipping to the East and South. The soil is black loam and sand mixed, the timber, beech, black and yellow birch, spruce and pine, the quantity of pine estimated to be upon it is some 45 million feet, which is scattered through the township.

The township of Lawrence is situated upon the confines of The Algonquin National Park, which as you know was reserved as a home for game of all descriptions, the intention being to preserve the beauty of the Park and to afford a harbour for the different wild animals, birds, etc. which are natives of this Province. The formation of a settlement of Indians upon the borders of a territory of this kind would, in my opinion, be attended with great danger to the preservation of the game in the Park. You know the predatory habits of these people, how they roam about, and how difficult it is to keep watch of their movements in the forest or to get them to recognize that a law which applies to white people, with respect at any rate to the killing of game, should be made to apply to the Indian, who depends for his livelihood [sic] in a great measure upon what he can kill in the forest. It would therefore be almost impossible to keep these Indians, thus situated, from hunting and trapping within the Park, and the attempt to do so would no doubt be attended with great expense and continual friction and bad blood between the Indians and the rangers, which might lead to unfortunate results. There being such a large quantity of pine timber still growing in the township is another difficulty. The Department does not open to sale to white people lands upon which there is still a considerable quantity of pine timber growing, and where there is 40 or 50 million feet of pine in a township, it would not be a proper thing to open it to indiscriminate settlement. Mr. Simpson, the Park Superintendent, speaks very strongly of the danger there would be in permitting these people to settle on the confines of the Park. He is of opinion that it would greatly increase the difficulty of protecting the game, which opinion is no doubt correct.

Under these circumstances I think you will see how impossible it is for the Department to sell or grant the Indians any lands in the township of Lawrence.

It would appear from what Mr. Simpson says that there is a considerable number of Indians in the township of Nightingale, some 32 individuals in all, many of whom have entered into possession of lots and made small clearings, and been there for a considerable period. I think it would be well that these people should be given to understand by your Department that they have no rights there, and that they must not expect that these lands will, as a matter of course, be allowed to them.

[Document No. 522]

297. The above letter was transmitted to the Indian Agent along with instructions to have the people seeking a reserve in Lawrence moved to Golden Lake. [See Document No. 523.] As the agent's reply indicates, however, they were unwilling to move:

In reply to yours of 23rd ult. stating that the Indians of Township of Lawrence will have to remove to Golden Lake Reserve. I am sure they will not come to live to Golden Lake Reserve. I think it would be better to go to the Indians at Lawrence and try and get them all together and see what they are willing to do; or if they know of any other Locality unless there can be any place got along the O.R. & P.S. close to a Lake or River as they want to be near the River if that is what you mean in your letter. Vacant Land, the Govt. Provincial may refuse to give them any place. as [sic] for the Indians at Nightingale I do not know to what tribe or Band they belong to. I will find out and notify them if they belong to Golden Lake Reserve in any case it is no time to remove them or cause them to leave. I think the Whitney Co. has the most to do to keep the Reserve from them if you would authorize me to go and try to make a settlement with them. I would like to take an Indian from Golden Lake Reserve with me one that can speak English & understand it well.

[Document No. 524]

298. Chief Peter Sharbot suggested an alternate site on Hay Lake in Sabine Township. [Document No. 527.] The Agent so informed the Department on January 22, 1896:

You will see by the enclosed letter that the Indians at Long Lake in Township of Lawrence have located a place to live on away from Lawrence or Nightingale, I met two of the Indians on the 2nd Inst. at the Golden Lake Reserve, one from Nightingale and the other from Township of Lawrence, I read the official Letter I received from Indian Department date 23rd Nov. 1895 (No. 83-203). I wrote to them in December, but on the 2nd inst. they told me they did not get it, it appears they got it when they got back home, the enclosed which is an answer. I told them to get the Consent of the Chief Ranger of the Algonquin Park to the place they would wish to settle on and send it to me and I would forward it to the Department, they did not do so as yet, pleas [sic] advise me in the matter by return of mail.

[Document No. 528]

299. On January 13, 1897, Peter Sharbot again wrote to Agent Bennett:

In regard to Reserve which we are trying to get. I might say that the land we wish to secure lies at the head of Hay Lake in the township of Sabine to the South West end of lake, there are four families living there just now, all with more or less clearance and there would be probably ten families altogether living there should that part of the township be set aside for the purposes of a Reserve.

Kindly let me know what further steps I should take in this matter. We are all Algonquins.

[Document No. 534]

300. On February 9, 1897, Sharbot sent the following letter to Bennett:

Yours of January 20th to hand and in reply beg to enclose you letter received from Dept. Crown Lands through Mr. Simpson Park Superintendent we also wish to say that we were not aware that the lands in question were not in the market and that there are at present four families of Indians living there all having more or less clearance, while three more families are intending to locate there in the spring.

The reasons we have for desiring this location are that it is in a country fifteen miles from the nearest railway and about seven or eight miles from the nearest white settlers who have been living in this same township of Sabine for over eighteen years, the land is also well situated on the water ways being on Hay lake which is emptied into Long Lake of the Madawaska River and also near the Mink Lakes tributary to the York Branch of the Madawaska.

The pine is all cut off this part of the country and if you could induce the Indian Dpt. to grant us one fourth of this township for settlement we would be self supporting and independent of government assistance in every way.

...

[Document No. 535]

301. A letter was sent to Bennett in April 1897 instructing him to inform the Indians wanting a reserve in Sabine to go to the Golden Lake Reserve. [See Document No. 540.] Bennett responded on May 18, 1897:

in [sic] reply to yours of April 15th, 1897 No. 83,203 stating that the Indians of Sabine be notified to return or come to live on Golden Lake Reserve, the Indians at Sabine do not belong to Golden Lake Reserve. also there is no room for them on the Reserve as there is only seven vacant lots 50 acres each on the Golden Lake Reserve. So there is no use in asking them to come to live on the said Reserve. if [sic] it is possible it would be better to get the reserve for them in Sabine. I understand that there is two parties, and that they are not agreed on the place to locate. I was told so by one of the Indians at Golden Lake Reserve if the Dept. will get the Reserve for them I think it would be advisable to send some one and call a meeting of all the Indians and find out the particulars and then report to govt.

[Document No. 542]

302. J. D. McLean, the Secretary of Indian Affairs, instructed Agent Bennett to meet with the Sabine Algonquins and provide certain information. [See Document No. 546.] Within two months, on July 15, 1897, Bennett filed his report:

I visited the Indians at Sabine (who are Algonquins) as authorized by Department, and found three families settled on land bordering on Hay Lake in the Township of Sabine, and others waiting to settle on the proposed Reserve also I was informed by the Indians that there is other Indians who are not living on any Reserve, who would wish to go and settle on proposed Reserve the names and ages of the Indians whom I found there are

Mat Whiteduck	Age 37 years	wife & family
Amab Lavally	" 28 "	" "
Henry Macoose	" 35 "	unmarried
Exavier Levally	" 24 "	"
Denis "	" 29 "	"
Lemab Sharbot	20	Widower
Peter Sharbot	65	wife and family
Frank Sharbot	29	" "
William Levally	30	Widower
Louis "	50	wife & family
John "	32	

three families are living on land on Sabine with improvements made thereon the other Indians who are there but afraid to make any improvements until they are sure of the Reserve being set aside for them.

The area of the Reserve they want is ten lots in width and seven in length, there is about 1500 acres of a drowned [sic] marsh in the north east Corner of the reserve they wish to get the proposed reserve is in the south east corner of the Township of Sabine, I think however that 4000 acres would be sufficient for these Indians and would recommend that lots 1 to 10 inclusive in con. 4-5-6-7 of the Township of Sabine be acquired for them. this tract of land is not fit for settlement and I do not think it will be settled upon by white settlers.

[Document No. 547]

303. A reservation of land for the Algonquins of Sabine, Lawrence, and Nightingale was not allowed by Crown Lands. [See Document No. 549.]