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Ottawa 5th November 1902-

Sir-

In reply to your letter of the 3rd Instant, relative to the application of Chief Commanda of the Nipissing Indian Reserve, for permission to cut, on the Reserve, and sell 7 000 Railway Ties during the ensuing Season and the dues payable on same, I have to inform you that the Timber is the property of the Band in common and neither the Chief nor any of the workers have a right to take timber and dispose of it for their own benefit, without paying something in the way of an equivalent, in the interest of the Band, who from any cause are prevented from participating in the work.

This equivalent is practically a bonus and the timber is regarded as being worth the bonus and the dues payable under the Tariff.

As it has not been shown that ~~any~~ there is any good and sufficient reason, such as failure of crop sickness or distress of any kind to justify a departure from the rule in this case, the Department is not disposed to waive the payment of bonus in this instance.

The price of Ties being high and the haul being short the Chief and his assistants should do very well under the condition stated.

Your obedient servant



W.B. Maclean, Esq.,

Indian Superintendent,

Parry Sound, Ont.

Secretary

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,  
17 October 1902 - 8 November 1902, (R.G. 10, Volume 5009)

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