

254014-56

Ottawa, 21st October, 1908.

Rev. Sir,-

With reference to that portion of your letter of the 4th instant, in which you refer to the death of the Rev. L.C. D'Amour, and in which you ask the Department to pay you the same stipend which he received (viz:- \$40.00 per annum) owing to the fact that you attend to ^{the} same spiritual duties which he performed for the Indians of the Edmundston Reserve, I beg to say that a number of years ago it was decided to discontinue all payments for spiritual services to Indians throughout the Dominion but it was felt that it would be a hardship to summarily reduce the stipends of Missionaries who had for years been so remunerated. The cancellation of the grant in such cases was therefore postponed until the death or removal of the incumbent, when it would be possible to carry out the ruling referred to (which I may here say was the outcome of a decision arrived at as a result of a discussion of the matter in the House of Commons), without seeming to break faith with him.


The Rev. Father D'Amour was one of the incumbents above referred to, and now that he is dead the Department must adhere to the ruling, which I may say is being generally applied, when in the course of time such positions as those referred to are left vacant.

In view of the foregoing you will readily understand that your request to be placed on salary as missionary cannot be favorably entertained.

Your obedient servant,

Rev. W. J. Conway,

Edmundston, N.B.


Asst. Secretary.

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
3 October 1908 - 26 October 1908, (R.G. 10, Volume 5216)

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