

OTTAWA, January 18, 1882.

SIR,—I am returning herewith an account of Bulman & Wallbank, for survey of Caughnawaga Reserve \$1,354.00, paid by cheque No. 11,533, on 4th August, 1881.

I would beg to call your attention to the charges made in it, amounting to \$372.83 for expenses incurred by delay on account of erroneous plan furnished.

It is desirable that all accounts should be certified and approved by an officer of your Department, as to work performed, prices charged and extensions, and in a case like the present an explanation added of the charges referred to.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. McDOUGALL,

Auditor-General.

L. VANKOUGHNET, Esq.,

Deputy Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

OTTAWA, January 24, 1882.

SIR,—The account of Messrs. Bulman & Wallbank, for survey on the Caughnawaga Reserve, having been certified and approved and explanations endorsed thereon as requested in your letter of the 18th inst., the same is re-enclosed herewith.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. SINCLAIR,

For Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

J. LOBNE McDOUGALL, Esq.,

Auditor-General.

(Memo.)

The erroneous plan above referred to which occasioned delay and consequent extra expense was the only plan of the reserve, at that time, in the possession of the Department, and was supposed to be correct, but subsequently found to be erroneous, and delay ensued until the record of the Crown Lands Department at Quebec were searched and the necessary corrections made.

L. V.

D. M.

OTTAWA, January 27, 1882.

Pay-lists of Indian Funds.

SIR,—I have the honor to call your attention to the following observations arising out of the examination of some pay-lists lately received at this office.

1. Sums have been placed on pay-lists, which were sent to third parties to be paid to the Indians entitled thereto, but no evidence is furnished that such payment has been made. * * * * *

2. I observe that Mr. Phipps has been in the habit of retaining the annuities of any Indians absent at time of a payment. It seems to me that this practice is objectionable. Accompanying the returns of some of the other Agents there is a list of all Indians unpaid, but the money due them is not retained by the Agent. This course is preferable, and, I would suggest, should be followed by all the Agents. Would you be pleased to have me furnished with a statement showing:—

(a) All moneys of this nature in the hands of Mr. Phipps on the 1st July last.

(b) All sums since retained.

(c) All sums since paid to Indians with vouchers therefor.

3. Some of the pay-sheets are certified as correct by the Agent, others by the agents and chiefs or headmen of the bands. It is desirable that the latter course should be followed by all.