

W. Daniel Rogers

Indian Office
Quebec 25 Nov. 1851.

Sir,

5567

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant I am directed to acquaint you that the Governor General's decision with respect to the disputed Lot No 3. in the 3^d Con. South Brillon will be communicated to you forthwith by Captain Robinson but that His Excellency cannot make any deduction from the price respectively set upon the whole or the half lot. I must add in justice to that Gentleman that in dealing with this somewhat complicated case he has not exhibited any undue bias in favor of either of the contending parties.

Yours
Signed / C. Bruce
Sup. Genl

His Excellency
The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine
Governor General.

Indian Department
Quebec 20th Nov. 1851.

Original sent to Lord
Staten Despatch No 152
and No 179 of Nov 1851

Memoranda subject of my Memorandum of the 27th August last which was called for by Earl Grey's Despatch No 647 of the 11th ult. I have the honor to state I purposely abstained on that occasion from entering at length into details, as Your Excellency had already brought the matter under the consideration of the Imperial Government in your Despatch No 19 of the 19th July 1849. I now beg leave with the view of putting his Lordship in possession of all the facts of the case to submit for his information copies from the records of this office of the correspondence which passed in 1845 relative to the regulations then promulgated for the gradual reduction of the charge for Indian Presents, and to refer his Lordship to Lord Metcalfe's Despatch on the subject No 261 of the 27th April and Lord Stanley's reply No 390 of the 14th June of the same year. His Lordship will not fail to perceive that throughout these documents the existing generation of Indians are regarded as life tenants of the Crown to the extent of the

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the customary issue of Presents and as entitled to compensation for any deduction that might be made therefrom - and from the enclosed correspondence it would appear that the Officers of the Department were accordingly authorized by Lord Metcalfe to give an allowance to those from whom the usual allowances of food and ammunition were to be withheld that this saving should be expended in aid of their schools. It is true that Lord Stanley declares his inability to carry out the recommendation of the Commissioners who had suggested that the difference between the amount of actual expenditure and the annual vote should be appropriated to educational purposes - but taken in connection with his previous admission of the individual rights of the Indians, it is plain that his objection only refers to savings to be effected by the reorganization of the Department and the gradual reduction in the number of claimants and not to those arising from the stoppages in question. Under these circumstances it appeared to me that although Earl Grey had been pleased by his recent instructions to modify the settlement of 1845, its conditions ought to faithfully observed until the new system should come into operation and I therefore ventured to offer the suggestions submitted in my Memorandum of the 27th August last.

But apart from these special reasons in favor of that proposition I feel bound to recommend it in the strongest manner on the broad grounds of expediency and benevolence. Considerable irritation and disappointment must under any circumstances be felt by the Indians when the new arrangements in respect to the Presents are communicated to them; these sentiments may however be in some degree allayed if they perceive that their interests have not been sacrificed out of mere indifference or caprice, but that Her Majesty's Govt. having come to the deliberate conclusion that the time has arrived when they should cease to depend upon the generosity of Great Britain for the supply of their physical wants still manifest a liberal and enlightened solicitude for their moral progress. Whether doubts may exist as to the advantage which they derive from their annual Presents it will not be denied that increased facilities of education and civilization will become doubly necessary to them.