

292,870/41.

Ottawa, November 28, 1912.

Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, asking that the Department consider the question of allowing registration that will protect those who purchase under agreement of sale from those holding certificates of sale from the Department, and suggesting that something in the nature of a caveat, such as is now used in the Province of Alberta, might be accepted by the Department.

In reply I would say that the Indian Act already provides for the registration of assignments, provided that the assignments are unconditional in their terms. The object of this restriction appears to be that there shall be no doubt as to the person entitled to the Patent, and it is considered that it should remain so. It is not considered advisable to register documents of any kind that might embarrass the Department in determining to whom the patent should be granted, and it is not thought that there would be any particular hardship suffered on that account by purchasers under agreement for sale.

You state that there is involved in some of these transactions sums amounting to several thousand dollars, but as the original price is small in comparison to these subsequent sales, it would appear that the amount due to the Department could easily be paid by these subsequent

purchasers

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Department of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
25 November 1912 - 6 December 1912, (R.G. 10, Volume 5432)

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