

105,335

Ottawa, 21st. May, 1909.

Sir:-

379 S.B.

I beg to refer to your letter of 13th. March last relative to complaints made by some of his Indians relative to being neglected by their Agent Mr. Irwin, and in reply to inform you that the lack of definite information as to the grounds for complaint and the nature of any remedy which might be required left the Department in doubt as to whether it was your intention to make further inquiries and report or not.

In so far as concerns your statements, it might doubtless be inferred that the Indians have justification for their complaints.

It would appear however, that you attribute the Agent's supineness to ill-health, and while the Department would be very loath to act harshly, none the less it is evident that it can not consistently with its duty allow the interests of the Indians to be indefinitely neglected.

Under the circumstances the only course open would appear to be to point out the facts to the Agent, and to request him to send in a report from some qualified medical practitioner as to when there is any reasonable probability of his health being so far recovered, as to permit of his being able to attend to his duties properly.

Your obedient servant,

A. W. Vowell, Esq.,
Indian Superintendent
Victoria,
B.C.

Tom Lean
Secretary