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Ottawa, March 27th., 1920.

Sir,-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, on the subject of the purchase of relief supplies for destitute Indians and in regard to the necessity for obtaining quotation of prices; and in reply I beg to say that when it is necessary for you to make purchase of food, covering a period of several months or less, the cost of which will exceed \$10.00, you should request the different merchants in the locality where purchase is to be made for prices on staple articles, such as flour, pork, rice, corn meal, oat meal, etc. You should purchase from the firm or firms which quote the lowest price. Unless in a case of illness the food supplies issued should consist of necessaries and, therefore, you are expected to purchase substantial food such as above referred to. Luxuries are not to be supplied. In cases of illness or old age you are allowed to arrange for the issue of small quantities of tea and sugar. If there are Indians suffering from tuberculosis on the relief list, you may arrange for food issues of a nourishing character such as may be recommended by the doctor. Food of a like nature may be provided when necessary on behalf of young children whose parents are on the relief list, but I may say that the Department expects you to act with discretion in regard to all food issues which you make.

It is considered that the requirements of the War Producing Commission will be met if you obtain quotation of prices on staple articles of food.

Merchants doing business within a reasonable distance from the place at which destitute Indians reside should be asked to quote prices and, therefore, it is not necessary for you to ask a merchant at Barrabore to quote prices for supplies located at Halfway River. I may also say that...

Chas. E. Davison, Esq.,
Acting Indian Agent,
Halfway River, P.E.I.

Indian Affairs. Letterbook,
11 March 1920 - 24 March 1920, (R.G. 10, Volume 5802)

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