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Ottawa, 23rd May, 1899-

Rev. Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th Instant, and to say that your explanations regarding the Reserves in your County, appear to be very clear.

The Department does not, at present, see its way to entertain a proposal to enlarge any of them.

It would appear advisable to encourage the Indians to clear up, and bring under cultivation, as great an area of their Reserves as possible. The more stony and rough portion might remain as woodlands, which would always be valuable to the Indians for firewood.

Your obedient servant,

J. D. MOLEAN

Secretary-

Rev. R. McDonald,

Indian Agent,

Bureka,

Pictou Co.

N.S.