

326,990

Ottawa, 22nd. June, 1908.

Sir:-

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I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 11th. instant and inclosure referring to the destruction of noxious weeds within Indian Reserves.

However the matter may be viewed, the fact remains that under the provisions of the British North America Act the exclusive legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to lands reserved for Indians, and the Department feels with you that an effort should be made to co-operate with the provincial authorities in matters concerning the general welfare.

In so far as lands under cultivation are concerned it would seem that any proper system of agriculture would involve the destruction of noxious weeds but the only legal method known to the Department for the enforcement of this very necessary measure is through the framing of rules and regulations by the Chief or Chiefs in Council under the provisions of Section 98, subsection (1) of the Indian Act.

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Hon. David Laird,
Indian Commissioner,
Winnipeg,

Man.