

310,100.

Ottawa, December 7, 1911.

Sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, reporting the application of Thos. Sonifax, of Bel Ground Reserve, for permission to cut 1,000 railway ties, I have to state that this application should have come from the Band by way of resolution. In any case the Department is not disposed to sanction any more cutting this season, at least until you furnish an estimate of the quantities and kinds of timber remaining on this Reserve.

If every application by Indians for permission to cut timber were granted, the reserve would be depleted of timber in a short time, and then they would be in distress and appeal to the Department to supply them with timber not only for building purposes but also for fuel.

You should impress on these Indians the urgent necessity of clearing and cultivating the land as a means of livelihood instead of relying upon timber which is fast disappearing, and if this advice is not acted on, the certain consequence will be suffering and possibly starvation at no distant period.

Your obedient Servant,

Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

R. A. Irving, Esq.,
Indian Superintendent,
Buotouche, N. B.

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
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