

- 2 -

an inspection of any portion of his work. There was no attempt to take the matter out of Mr. Lewis' hands and the thousand dollar advance was sent through you for disbursement by Inspector Semmens as a matter of expedition and convenience. The wisdom of the course was evident from Insp. Semmens' preliminary report taken in connection with a letter which the Department had received from Mr. Lewis dated the 11th instant, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. As you are aware the terms of the surrender contemplated a reasonable assistance in removal to the new reserve and the re-habitation of the Indians, in summer time, in any year within five years of the date of the surrender; but it is plain from Mr. Lewis' letter that the Department may be faced with the problem of providing during the coming winter for the greater number of families now resident on the Reserve. Under these circumstances the Department wishes to adhere to its former instructions to Insp. Semmens, that is, that he should visit the scene of the operations and investigate with care and report with minuteness on the work that is being performed, and upon the whole question of the removal of these Indians.

He may use his discretion in visiting the Fisher River Reserve at once or postponing it until he has a thorough understanding of the position of the present locates at St. Peter's. He should enquire carefully into all the sales which have been made by Indians of the lands of which they expect to receive patents and what the terms of these sales are with reference to <sup>their</sup> vacation of premises.

Insp. Semmens should inform the Department accurately of the number of houses which it will be necessary to build at once or during the coming year in order that proper provision may be made in the Estimates.

In the meantime the erection of the ~~three~~ houses should be