

Department of Agriculture—Archives.

1824.

Indians as the distance would cause great inconvenience. The agency at the Lake of Two Mountains can only be nominal, as these Indians do not possess any property in common from which they derive a revenue.

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Darling to Sir John Johnson. The appointment of Doucet to be agent for the St. Francis Indians was made in consequence of their application for him, and he asked leave to resign if he found himself unable, from other avocations, to perform the duties. The fact of Gill acting as agent was not known in the office, and the commander of the forces is surprised that he (Johnson) should not have reported it. Information wanted of the extent of the settlement of St. Francis, average amount of revenue and other information. Gill to render an account of the revenues that have passed through his hands. 340

Sir John Johnson to Darling. Is surprised to learn that the St. Francis Indians applied for the appointment of Doucet. Shall investigate into the reasons for a direct application being made without reference to him or any officer of the department, and shall on receiving information answer all the questions in the letter. 343

Sir John Johnson to Darling. The surprise of the chiefs of the Abenakis of St. Francis at the appointment of Doucet. Probable reason for the application attributed to them which justifies the apprehensions of the Indians. Extracts from grants, &c. 345

Darling to Johnson. The necessity in appointing an agent for the Indians to select one not only with a competent knowledge of business but of strict integrity. Before making an appointment to the agency, the Indians at St. Regis and Caughnawaga should fix the remuneration to be paid for the service. 352

Darling to Johnson. The commander of the forces approves of his (Johnson's) suggestion that a commission should issue to the Indian agents. Sends form. If he thinks it necessary he might suggest his ideas for the commander of the forces to consider. 355

Darling to Johnson. There are objections to the appointment of Archangeault to be Indian agent. Doucet to be appointed. 357

Same to the same. Sends commissions to S. Y. Chesley and N. B. Doucet to act as agents for the Indians at St. Regis and Caughnawaga. 359

Johnson to Darling. A deputation of seven chiefs and six warriors of the Abenakis waited on him and confirmed the statement in his letter of 14th May, that they did not wish for Mr. Doucet as agent nor for any change in the agency. 360

Johnson to Darling, 13th August, 1823. Indians of Caughnawaga complaining of irregularities in the village in consequence of persons being there cutting stone for the La Chine Canal and of the ease with which Indians get rum nominally provided only for the labourers. Is grieved that Doucet should so long have allowed this state of affairs. The chiefs are very urgent that this grievance should stop and would, to secure this, forego the profit from the sale of the stone, but he thinks the evil may be remedied without this loss as the same system might be applied as that at St. Helen's Island, where the men cross to their work in the morning and return in the evening. If this suggestion should be approved of, asks that Doucet be instructed to inform the contractors that the workmen are no longer to be allowed to remain at Caughnawaga, but that means are to be provided for them to cross in the morning and return in the evening, if not the cutting of stone at Caughnawaga must cease. The chiefs also complain of the non removal of obnoxious persons. 362

Darling to Johnson, 30th August, 1823. Orders have been sent for the removal of obnoxious persons in accordance with his (Johnson's) letters. His suggestions are approved of. 366