

171 B.

31.380

Indian Office

Sarnia 29<sup>th</sup> July 1881.

Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of  
Dept. Letter (26042) dated 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. Calling my attention  
to a letter addressed to me on the 30<sup>th</sup> (25<sup>th</sup>) May last relating  
to the reported distress of Certain Indians on the Reserve  
and asking what action (if any) I have taken in  
regard to the same:—

In reply I beg to say. That  
a good while previous to the receipt of Dept. letter of  
25<sup>th</sup> May. I had visited a number of the poorest families  
on the Reserve, and had taken measures to prevent  
their suffering from actual want. I may say  
in general, that though there are a number of families  
very poor, there has been no actual starvation, or  
any thing approaching thereto. I may also say that  
on receipt of said letter as directed therein, I consulted  
with Mr. Dingman. "As to the best course to be adopted  
1<sup>st</sup> in relieving effectually the extreme cases of distress  
above described; 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Amelioration of the Con-  
ditions generally of the Indians on the Reserves." Mr.  
Dingman agreed with myself, that these were very  
difficult problems to solve, and did not feel  
prepared to make any special recommendation.

Since then, however, I have seen Mr. Dingman  
who informs me that in his Report which he is pre-  
paring to send to the Department, he will make some  
propositions

The Honorable  
The Sup<sup>t</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. of Indian Affairs

Ottawa