

158,693- 14

Ottawa, 23rd. June, 1908.

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 12th. instant relative to the question of prosecuting the vendor of cider to an Indian under circumstances described you, and in reply to inform you as follows:-

As to the nature of the ignorance pleaded by the vendor, the Department understands that it was not of the law but of the intoxicating properties of the cider, but apparently that is a matter to be decided upon evidence before a court having jurisdiction.

In so far as the Department is concerned with regard to the intention of the vendor the consideration which would influence it as to prosecuting, is what the effect of refraining from prosecution would probably be upon vendors generally with regard to selling and upon Indians with regard to purchasing, and if likely to encourage either the selling or buying, it would consider the proper course to be to prosecute, and afterwards the fine might be remitted.

It

Wm. Graham, Esq.,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Balcarres,
Sask.