

90 672/2

Ottawa, February 18, 1909.

Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 1st instant, inclosing copies of resolutions passed by the Council of the Cape Croker Band number one, requesting the Department to permit white men to come and haul the timber which they fear cannot be hauled by Indian teams owing to unfavourable weather and want of snow, and in reply to inform you that the matter is being considered, and you will be advised later as to what may be decided.

Such permission could only be given as a last resort, being contrary to the provisions of the Indian Act as well as the aim of the Department to keep the Indians employed within their reserves.

If the Indians generally were allowed to sell the timber standing in the tree, or where it fell, to white men, they would prefer this mode of disposal which is altogether opposed to the views held by the Department, and such practice would have a ruinous and demoralizing tendency.

Resolution No. 4 is a matter appertaining to the band rather than to the Department, which, however, appears to be fair and reasonable.

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

John Mclver, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Mclver P. O., Ont.

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