

530659-1

330659 / I.

Ottawa, Nov. 17th., 1908.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant (No. 82/28) with enclosure from Inspector Semmens. As the Department has issued no direct instructions to Mr. Lewis on the subject of the removal of the St. Peter's Indians and as the only special direction given was that communicated to you on Sept. 9th, you are in possession of all the ~~facts~~ instructions which have been given to the Agent. The Department had received several letters from Mr. Lewis but it was not until receipt of communication from him dated 29th October that it became plain that he had engaged carpenters and laborers and was paying Indians employed in the erection of the houses. In letter dated October 5th he stated that he had engaged a carpenter, with helpers, to cut up the timber for the houses ~~as~~ as required, but neither in this letter nor in the one before quoted did he state the number of men employed nor the rate of wages at which they were paid. As the letter of the 29th of October was by no means explicit in any particular and as the Department is most anxious that the action should be taken with every regard for economy and in the best interests of the St. Peter's Indians, it was thought advisable to request you to direct Inspr. Semmens to investigate what was being done upon the ground and to report upon the whole question of the removal of these Indians. Mr. Lewis' Agency is located in Inspr. Semmens' district and there is no reason why the Agent should take umbrage at his superior officer undertaking with proper authority

Hon D Laird

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
16 November 1908 - 4 December 1908, (R.G. 10, Volume 5220)

POOR COPY

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA