

954,009-9

Ottawa, 10th September, 1904.

Sir : -

I have the honour to call your attention to the serious condition of affairs brought about among the Indians of certain districts by the sale to them of unlimited quantities of essence peppermint bearing the label of your Company.

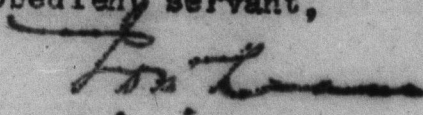
The Department has been informed that on the evening of the day the annuity payments were made in July last to the Indians of Nepigon House many of them appeared to be under the influence of an intoxicant and that on making inquiry it was learned that they had been purchasing large quantities of the essence from the Hudson's Bay store and drinking it as a beverage. The attention of the clerk in the store was called to the effect the essence was having on the Indians but no attempt was apparently made by him to restrict its sale.

The Government Analyst, to whom the essence was submitted for analysis, states that it contains a large percentage of alcohol and that the effects of drinking this mixture would have a much more serious effect than would an ordinary intoxicant.

The Department has learned from other districts than the one mentioned that the same condition of affairs exists where this essence is sold, and it would be glad if you will give this matter your attention, as it is confident that on making inquiries you will be convinced that the sale of the essence to the Indians should be discontinued.

C. C. Chipman, Esq.,
Commissioner,
Hudson's Bay Company,
Winnipeg, Man.

Your obedient servant,


Secretary.

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