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Ottawa, 7th March, 1892.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, regarding the claim of Mr. Jesse Mattheson for damages done by and for the keeping of a bull which belonged to the Blood Vein River Indians, I beg to inform you that I have taken note of the contents of your letter, and the conclusion at which I have arrived is that it was the duty of the Indians who owned the bull to look after and keep the animal on the Reserve, and as they failed to do so, and damage and loss was sustained and expense incurred by Mr. Mattheson in respect of the bull, owing to its having entered his farm and committed damage to his crops and to one of his cattle, the annuities of the Blood Vein Indians are properly assessable with the amount of the damages sustained by Mr. Mattheson, also with the cost of the butchering of the bull and the freighting of the beef to Dog Head to be distributed among the destitute Indians of the Band. The proper course would, therefore, appear to be to deduct the amount, which you state you assess at \$50 damages, as well as the cost of butchering and freighting the beef, viz., \$3.50, from the annuities which will next be payable