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an Order-in-Council dated 31st, March last (because it is so stated in the Commission). Beyond that I have no knowledge whatever as to the contents of that document, as I have never seen it. I presume, however, that that is the Order-in-Council to which you refer. The only sources from which the Commissioners can derive knowledge as to what their powers are, are the Commission and the Agreement between Sir Richard McBride and Dr. McKenna attached thereto and forming part thereof, the Resolution of the Commission of the 20th. May last, intimating to the Governments of the Dominion and the Province, that, if they so desire and instruct the Commission, the Board would be pleased to deal with certain matters strictly speaking beyond the scope of its specific authority, and the Order-in-Council of the 10th. June in reply to such Resolution.

Upon reading these documents, I am, with all deference and respect, constrained to state that the Commissioners are not empowered "to deal with all matters affected by the Agreement between the Province and the Dominion" as you state in your letter of the 12th. August, if by that you mean that the Commissioners are empowered to deal with all matters affecting Indian Reserves.

I wrote you on the 7th. July in reply to a letter from Mr. Mitchell respecting a suggested purchase of 600 acres of land