

121698-47

Ottawa, April 29, 1909.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst. inclosing one from Mr. J. G. Chard, Overseer, Valley River, in regard to the trouble with Chief John Rattlesnake.

In reply to your remark that you think that the Department has sufficient grounds for deposing Rattlesnake, I beg to say that this view is not held by the Department; on the contrary a little study of the history of Chief Rattlesnake leads to the impression that Overseer Chard himself may be responsible in some degree for the friction between himself and the chief. In support of this view I may say that the first trouble of any consequence with the chief appears to have occurred since the appointment of Mr. Chard. Only about a year ago—in June and July, 1908—both Agent Blewett and yourself reported unfavourably of Mr. Chard: among other things he was charged with having drawn a revolver and threatened to shoot an Indian who was running away with a bottle of liquor; and when Agent Blewett warned him against such behaviour, he persisted in contending that he was right in acting in such a manner. There is a good deal to lead the Department to the conclusion that Mr. Chard has antagonized the Indians, and particularly the chief, for lack of tact and discretion.

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