

MEMORANDUM.

Department of Indian Affairs,

To *Montele*

Sir John Macdonald

Lt. Col. J. A. D. W. P. Ottawa, March 9th 1881.

Indians on the Sarnia Reserve.

London, March 7.—The Free Press gives an account of the condition of the Indians on the Sarnia Reserve, stating that it is frightfully neglected. A reporter recently sent among them found most of them in a starving state, living in filthy huts without clothing or blankets. In many cases their allowances are misappropriated and there is no proper supervision. The department at Ottawa is urged to send a commission of enquiry to the reserve in order to remedy the state of affairs.

Copy the clipping only - not the written memo RJ

I have written Mr. Smith Mr. Mackenzie to call on Mr. J. A. D. W. P.

With reference to the above article clipped from the Ottawa Free Press of the 7th Inst. the undersigned begs to state that the cause of the misery of the Indians of the Sarnia Reserve is traceable to their own idleness.

They have a fine tract of land on the banks of the River St. Clair - but as will be seen from Mr. Supt. Watson's report of the 3rd Inst. they do but little in the way of cultivation.

The Supt. Genl. will remember the proposal of the Deputation of Sarnia people, introduced by Mr. A. Mackenzie last Jan. that the Govt. should lease the unoccupied portion