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Ottawa, November 7, 1918

Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 1st instant in further reference to prosecutions for supplying liquor to Indians, and note your observation that if the Department wishes to curb the traffic it will have to amend the Act to give better assurance to Agents and constables in the matter of fighting appeals than is indicated in the telegram of the 1st ultimo.

In reply I beg to say that the Department does not fully understand just why it was considered necessary to make this observation. In the first place there is no question to the Department's desire to curb the liquor traffic among Indians and in the second place it does not appear that the Department has ever failed to give the necessary assistance in the case of appeals when our Agents have called attention to such appeals and recommended the employment of counsel to aid them.

With respect to the proposed amendment to the Indian Act, I beg to say that "intoxicants" as defined in the Act is very comprehensive and it does not appear how it could very be made more so, as it includes any intoxicating "fluid" "oil" or "substance". The fact that the Prohibition Act of the Province may permit the sale of a beer which does not contain more than two per cent. proof spirits does not in any way nullify the prohibition contained in the Indian Act.

It appears from your correspondence that this is a view taken in some municipalities, but that in others this view is disregarded. The Department is taking this matter up with the Attorney-General of the Province and will advise you as to the outcome.

Your letter of the 1st instant has just been received.

Your obedient servant,

Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

A. McGraw, Esq.,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Vernon, B.C.

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