

the exercise of their legitimate functions. — In regard to the new salaried offices which they propose to establish I am desirous to state in the first place that no additional charges of that nature upon their funds will be sanctioned before the close of the financial year when the usual statement of their accounts will be laid before them. And while on this topic I am to observe that a very large and apparently disproportionate amount of their annuity is already expended in the payment of salaries and pensions. I hope that this item excepting so far as it is devoted to educational or religious purposes may be rather diminished than increased in future estimates. Referring to the Requisitions you enclosed I have to inform you that all the salaries due up to the 1st of January last will be remitted at the first convenient opportunity. That in behalf of Moses Hudwoyosh cannot be sanctioned on account of his character and unauthorized employment as Schoolmaster. The debt of Chief Mettignat amounting to £36-7-8 were paid in 1848 on the understanding that a stoppage to that extent would be made ~~from~~ from his future salary. The Requisition therefore for £62/10 is clearly incorrect. The Requisition (No. 4) should stand over until after the 31st March next unless any of the cattle or agricultural implements are required immediately for their farming operations.

His Excellency is glad to find that they are so ready to assist in road making and other local improvements. He is persuaded that their liberality in this respect will redound to their advantage and I shall communicate with you more fully on the subject at an early date.

With regard to the fisheries you will please to inform the Government cannot in justice refuse to carry out the agreement which was entered into with certain parties in 1849 at the instance of the Indians themselves, unless those parties fail to fulfil the stipulations of the lease; they may be reminded however that although the islands become temporarily the property of the Leases their right to fish in the adjacent waters remains unimpaired.

Yours &c
Signed / R. Bruce
Supt. Genl. P.S.

P.S. To Colonel Bruce's letter of the 10th instant in reply to Capt. Anderson's letter of the 24th ult. I am decidedly of opinion that the families of Saugeen Indians who have joined the Leclercq Bay Band are not entitled to share in the Saugeen annuity — or in that of the Huron and Seneca Indians unless admitted with the consent of all the Bands of that Tribe. I am exceedingly averse to the multiplication of these subdivisions, which can only lead to confusion.

The application for compensation for improvement of the land ceded by them to the Gov^t cannot be entertained. Looking back to the history of that transaction the Gov^t General thinks that the Saugeens have no reason to complain of the treatment they received at the hands of the authorities.

David Thothurn Esq^r
Brantford.
Sir,

Indian Department
Toronto 11th May 1851.

4861.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult. reporting on the Petition of John Slater and its accompanying documents which were referred to you on the 30th Dec^r last and transmitting certain written affidavits on behalf of Christopher Tygh. It would appear that you were at your residence near Brantford for a considerable period on different occasions after the alleged execution of the assignment from Tygh to Slater and that during intervals while you were necessarily absent a letter would at any time have reached you — and that you have acted in the matter in strict conformity with the provisions of the Provincial Statute regulating the sale of Public Lands. If therefore the interest of Slater have suffered it is in consequence of his own neglect but as the parties mutually charge each other with having acted fraudulently in the case the advice and opinion of the Attorney General will be taken thereon provided that Mr. Wilkinson as Agent for Slater is willing to bear the expense of such reference.

Yours &c
Signed / R. Bruce
Supt. Genl.