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Ottawa ,21st August, 1909,

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, in further reference to applications which you have received from Indians for assistance in the way of lumber for building purposes; and in reply I may say that although you were told in letter of the of the 31st July (which you quote), that you should make a recommendation in each case you have simply stated that three Indians applied for assistance of this nature, remarking that one of them is an aged widow named Maurice, and that \$20.00 or \$25.00 is a sufficient amount to allow. Your report can not be regarded as satisfactory. An expenditure of \$20.00 will be allowed in the case of the widow mentioned. In the absence of more specific information the Department will not deal with the other two cases.

You should be aware that whenever you submit a request from an Indian for aid of any kind you should report as to his circumstances, character, etc., stating at the same time whether you recommend the assistance asked for being granted. Upon receipt of a report of such a nature the Department is then in a position to deal intelligently with the case. Moreover it is your duty to lay all matters before the Department in the clearest possible manner. The Department is ready to aid needy and deserving Indians, but all Indians who can supply their own wants are expected to do so. You are in a position to know the character and circumstances of applicants for assistance, and you should furnish information as indicated.

Your obedient servant.

C.E. Beckwith, Esqr,
Indian Agent,
Steam Mills, N.S.

Secretary.

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,
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