

6079

J. G. J. H.

Revised Bawing, St. S., July 9, 1909

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Sir, -

Ex'd.

Referring to the subject of your letter of May 25, No. 6079, I beg to report, having visited, as requested, the Indian Reserve near Pictou Landing, St. S., and the Hester lot of land purchased somewhat recently by the Department, for the benefit of the Pictou Band of Indians.

With respect to the Hester property, I do not hesitate to say that, if it, was acquired for the purpose of providing the Indians with wood for fuel and for other uses, the Department could not have been well advised as to its value, and a mistake was made in purchasing it. The term "wood lot" as applied to it is a distinctly misnomer. I was unable to determine its correct limits on account of the absence of proper notes and bounds; yet, I must have travelled over the most of it, but could see very little wood ^{in it}, other than alder bushes, and a young growth of white birch - none of the former, I should say, than the latter. I saw very little, if any, material suitable for fencing, or for making poles, or handles, baskets and such other articles as are usually manufactured by our Indians. Why it was purchased instead of the property belonging to Mr. C. H. Sprague, who has it in the plan sent me by the Department - the original of which was, I presume, retained - seems strange indeed, - that is, if the latter could have been bought, and I understand that it could.

I traversed different sections of the Sprague property and am in a position to say that it contains an abundance of good hard, and soft, woods - just the

There is no wood of any kind on a large portion of it. See letter of 10th July on this file.