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Ottawa 1st August, 1906.

Sir,

From the tenor of your letter of the 25th ultimo, it is gathered that you are under a misapprehension with reference to the facts connected with the Gillespie case referred to in previous correspondence. With a view therefore to a better understanding of the matter I beg to inform you as follows:-

Certain of the Indians of the Rama Band became indebted to Mr F.J. Gillespie, and he, being unable to collect what was owed him, applied to the Department to assist him in the matter. The Department pointed out to the Indians that they should be willing to pay their just debts, and consequently in August 1900, they acknowledged their indebtedness, and agreed that 25% of their interest moneys be retained as they fell due and applied in liquidation of their debts. The first deductions were made at the ensuing payments, and continued to be made (and the money so collected paid to Mr Gillespie) until the spring of 1902, when a garnishee order was received from the Dominion Bank. (Hitherto the Department had sent cheques for all moneys collected for Mr Gillespie to him through the Indian Agent, Mr McFree.) On the 19th March Mr Gillespie wrote asking to have a cheque for the money collected sent direct to him, saying he would receipt it. He added "the debt to the bank is a Company matter and I am but one of them." Acting upon the advice of the Law Clerk, Mr Gillespie was informed in reply that the Department was not disposed to assist him to defeat his creditors and that consequently the money collected would be held until sufficient time had elapsed to allow of garnishee proceedings being determined.

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