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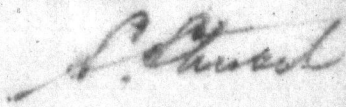
Ottawa, October 24th., 1917.

Sir,-

In reply to your letter of October 15th requesting permission to collect moneys from Indians in payment of accounts due merchants, brokers, & others, I beg to say that you cannot be allowed to do so. Your instructions were made clear to you when you took office that you were not to accept or issue orders for advances to Indians chargeable to their interest, salaries, or rent moneys. You were authorized to collect accounts due Mr. Proctor, which accounts were accepted for collection by the Department. Mr. McKay reported last spring that you had been collecting large amounts for Proctor and others in addition to amounts authorized and paying the amounts over to them without accounting for the same on pay-list. To avoid repetition of this I have had all deductions from interest made here and you will be good enough to hand over to the Indians in cash the amounts due them. You will be expected to strictly observe these instructions, as serious notice will be taken if you fail to carry them out.

A cheque for distribution of interest, with a statement showing deductions made will be sent you in a few days.

Your obedient servant,



For Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

T. Maxwell Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Sarnia, Ont.

Indian Affairs. Letterbook.  
15 October 1917 - 31 October 1917. (R.G. 10, Volume 5691)

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