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Ottawa, 18th. May, 1910.

DUTIES OF AGENTS.

Sir,

The duties of an Indian Agent consists largely in advising the Indians and protecting them in the possession of their farming, grazing and woodlands, fisheries or other rights, and preventing trespass or intercourse with the same; also in strongly opposing the introduction and manufacture of intoxicants among the Indians, or the use of the same by them; in endeavouring to prevail upon them to abandon the foolish, wasteful and demoralizing custom of potlatching; in conferring with and advising them in the important matter of subdividing the lands on the reserves among themselves. This, it is believed, can be done by the Agents more satisfactorily than by actual survey of the different holdings, and without any cost to the Departments.

The Department desires to do away with the custom of giving presents to the Indians; its tendency is demoralizing and is not productive of beneficial results. Nothing should be given to any able-bodied Indian unless an equivalent in the shape of work or some other value is received from him or her for the article given. Of course in the case of poor aged or sick Indians, the Department will as heretofore give such relief as is necessary for the alleviation of their wants. It may also be advisable where the Indians are desirous of cultivating land and raising root crops or grain and have not the means themselves of procuring the necessary implements wherewith to work the soil, to lend them such implements, but it must be clearly understood that they are only loaned to them and are to be accounted for to you and are to be kept in your charge or in the charge of someone for you such as the Chief of the Band as the property of the Government.

Endeavour to become acquainted with the individual Indians under your charge, and to familiarize yourself