

MEMORANDUM.

OTTAWA, 21st February, 1905.

To the Deputy Minister:-

The Rev. J.D. McLeod, Indian Agent, has referred in a letter hereunder to his former communication respecting fuel for the Indians of Fisher's Grant Reserve, to which no reply has been sent. He expresses the earnest hope that the Department will buy the ten acre lot of wood which his previous letter requested the Department to purchase for forty dollars.

He reiterates his former statements that the Indians have been taking wood from the property of white people for fuel and adds that if they could keep themselves from freezing otherwise they would not be stealing it, but God has given men the paramount right to live.

The neighbours are now repelling the Indians so violently that one of them told the Agent he was afraid he would be murdered.

With regard to this matter about which there appears to be some misapprehension, I may state that the 36 acres of land bought from Mr. Scott referred to by the accountant in his Memo. on this file is not wooded land, it is mostly arable land, and I would also refer to my Memo. of the 10th of January turned out, on this file and point out that the Department is not asked to buy more land but only hardwood on 10 acres which can be secured for the small sum of Forty Dollars.

It is evident that the Indians there, are badly in need of hardwood for fuel and as the Agent states, the 10 acres of wood would supply their wants for some years, I would again recommend that the purchase be made as soon as possible.

Geo. L. Chitty
Timber Inspector
GC