

BRANTFORD, CANADA, 16th April, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—We enclose, for your perusal, two pages of a letter just received from our Winnipeg house. Please read and return. Last season we supplied the Indian Department, through the Hudson Bay Company, a very considerable quantity of agricultural implements, which, as far as we know, give the very best satisfaction. We, last year, called your attention to the fact that in your specification for goods you were not fair to Canadian manufacturers. We again call your attention to this fact. Ploughs: you call for the John Deere plough, which means the American-made plough; you should ask for the John Deere pattern of plough, which is made in Ontario, and quite equal to the American article. You stipulate for the Toronto mower; you should stipulate for a mower equal to the Toronto mower. You stipulate for sulky horse-rakes and reapers made by the Massey Company of Toronto; you should stipulate for these equal to those made by the Massey Manufacturing Company of Toronto. You stipulate for the Chatham waggon; you should stipulate for a waggon "equal" to the Chatham waggon. You stipulate for Collard's flexible harrow; you should stipulate for harrows "equal" to Collard's flexible harrows. The inconsistency of your specification will appear plain when you state that you have already made the Speight waggon your standard, which is a very much superior waggon to the Chatham, and costs from \$5 to \$10 more to build. When you stipulate for the John Deere plough that virtually shuts out every Canadian manufacturer from tendering; and when you stipulate for goods made by any one particular maker that virtually shuts out every other maker from tendering. We are quite sure that the wording of your specification has been done without due consideration and without knowing what the result would be. We are prepared to supply for the Indian Department:—

- The snowball waggon,
- The Speight waggon,
- The Minchin waggon,
- The Brantford mower,
- The Brantford reaper,
- Diamond harrow, with steel teeth,
- Prairie breaking ploughs, made by Wilkinson Company,
- Cross, made by Wilkinson Company.

And we will guarantee all these goods equal in every respect to those you specify for; but as they are not the identical goods you ask for, we are shut out from tendering. We ask you to reply to us by wire whether the goods we have mentioned will be accepted. We also ask you to telegraph to your agents at Winnipeg, and advise them whether goods equal to those you specify for will be accepted. If you give us any opportunity of tendering we will do so; but cannot tender at all with the specification before us.

We are, &c.,

A. HARRIS & CO. (Limited).

*per Treas.-Pres.*

L. VANKOUGHNET, Deputy Superintendent Indian Affairs.

OTTAWA, 14th May, 1884.

SIR,—Referring to our conversation this morning, there are many things that make it impossible to furnish beef for your Indians as cheaply as we could do it if the contracts were for longer periods. If you will agree to a contract for three or two years, we will furnish you beef from 1st November next, at the following prices:

Reserves.	2 years.	3 years.
Blood.....	11½c.	10½c.
Piegau.....	11½c.	10½c.
Blackfoot.....	11½c.	10½c.
Sarcee.....	12c.	1c.