

Ottawa, 8th Jan., 1908.

Rev. Sir,-

In reply to your letter of 27th ultimo, regarding the conviction of Gabriel E. Poitras for the sale of liquor to Edward Francois, an Indian of the Tobique Reserve, I beg to say that, owing to the extenuating circumstances in favour of Poitras - that the sale of liquor was made by his bartender in his absence and without his knowledge; that the bartender was ignorant of the law, and that, even had he known its provisions, there was nothing in the Indian's appearance (as result of admixture of white blood) to lead any one unacquainted with him to suspect his race - the Department decided not to press for the collection of the fine and would consider it satisfactory if the costs were paid and the fine postponed until another conviction obtained.

Your obedient servant,

Forster
Secretary.

Rev. Frederick C. Ryan, P. P.,

Andover,

Victoria Co., N. B.

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