

254,909 - 16.

Ottawa, 13th. November, 1905 .

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 27th. ultimo and in reply to inform you that the Department is gratified to observe from what you report, that the allegations as to drinking by the Indians in Hagersville appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

With reference to what you say on the subject, the Department has no objection to the payment of \$2.00 for each conviction of an Indian found under the influence of intoxicants on the streets.

I may remind you however, that under the provisions of Section 99 half of any fine imposed upon an Indian arrested when drunk or with intoxicants in his possession on any part of a reserve goes to the informer, and in such cases if a fine be collected his share thereof should satisfy the informer.

While Indians who break the law should be punished the Department regards it as of still greater importance to detect and punish those who furnish them with intoxicants, and this aspect of the matter should be borne

W.C. VanLoon, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Hagersville,
Ont.

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