

OFFICE SECRETARY OF STATE, 30th May, 1882.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that a despatch has been received at this Department, from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, stating that he understands that it has recently been mentioned in the public journals that the Government of the Dominion have assumed to sell, for a nominal consideration, the Island known as "La Cloche," situated near the north shore of Georgian Bay, between Manitoulin Island and the Mainland, upon the claim that the Island of La Cloche was vested in that Government, in trust for the Indians.

His Honour states that his Government would be glad to be informed whether or not the fact is as mentioned, and if so, that they request information as to the grounds upon which the claim of the Dominion Government to the Island was founded as, so far as they are aware, this Island has, ever since the making of the Indian Treaty with Sir Francis Bond Head, at Manitowaning, in 1836, been deemed to be free from any claim of the Indians, and that if there was ever any doubt of the fact of the complete cession of "La Cloche" under that Treaty, the doubt would appear to have been removed by the Treaty of 1862. He submits, however, that there was never any doubt that under the Manitowaning Treaty this Island, like the numerous other Islands along the north shore of Georgian Bay, became the property of the Crown, discharged of any trust in favor of the Indians, and that the most that was ever supposed to be reserved to the Indians under that Treaty was the three Islands, which had been known by the name of "Manitoulin," namely, the 2nd Manitoulin, or Cockburn Island, the 3rd or Great Manitoulin, and the 4th Manitoulin, or Fitzwilliam Island, and the right given as to these Islands was not a general right of property attaching to all Indians or to any tribe or tribes, but was a right of habitation, to be conferred upon such Indians as should take up their residence there.

It is further stated by His Honor that at the time this Treaty was made, it was contemplated that a large number of Indians would remove to these Islands, but as this expectation was disappointed, a new arrangement was made by the Treaty of 1862 before referred to, and the right of the Indians to any beneficial interest in any of the Manitoulin Islands, except the Great Manitoulin, or in any Islands adjacent thereto, was surrendered, the Government undertaking to sell for their benefit such of the lands in the Great Manitoulin Island as should be assigned to the Indians upon that Island for their occupation. His Honor adds, that in case a sale has in fact been made, his Government would be glad to be informed of the amount of the purchase money, and the name or names of the purchaser or purchasers.

Having stated the price at \$1,500, the Island containing in the neighbourhood of 40,000 acres, the greater portion of which is land of excellent quality.

His Honor observes that it has also been stated that the Government of Canada has assumed to sell the Duck Islands, which lie at a considerable distance to the south of the Great Manitoulin Island, and that his Government desires to learn whether this statement is correct, and if so, the name of the person or persons to whom the sale has been made and the price obtained. He adds, that if the Dominion Government has assumed to make these sales, his Government most earnestly protests against any further sales by the Dominion of any lands in any of the Islands on the north shore of the Georgian Bay, except in Great Manitoulin, unless with the concurrence of the Government of Ontario.

His Honor further request that his Government may be furnished with a statement showing what Islands the Dominion Government claimed or claim to be entitled to as the north shore of the Georgian Bay and the grounds of such claim, and states that as soon as this information is obtained, his Government will suggest some mode by which the questions in dispute between the two Governments, in respect of these Islands and in respect of the Islands on the east shore of the Georgian Bay, south of Moose Deer Point, may be determined.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD J. LANGEVIN, *Under Secretary of State.*

Deputy Superintendent-General, Indian Affairs.