

96,036-19B

OTTAWA, March 25th—1903.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter of the 7th. instant and the account therewith forwarded from Mr. W.L. Curtis for supplies furnished to Indians of your Superintendency, I beg to inform you that the Department cannot see its way to pay this bill as it now stands.

Your statement that your orders to Mr. Curtis did not cover more than half the amount, and that the remainder was given by him on the authority of Chief Julian, cannot be accepted as a satisfactory reason for such excessive expenditure, more especially as the Chief himself is among the beneficiaries. You are within easy reach of Mr. Curtis, and your orders should have been so explicit as to prevent the contingency of his acceding to the Chief's request without specific authority from you; and you should also have informed yourself from time to time as to the amount expended. The Department has therefore decided in view of these facts, that it should not be called upon to pay for more than the supplies authorized by you; and, that as Mr. Curtis took upon himself the responsibility of furnishing further supplies, he will have to look to the recipients for payment.

It is observed that there has been for sometime a tendency towards a somewhat general distribution of these supplies. Such a proceeding is altogether at variance with the Department's regulations, which, based upon the smallness of the vote for relief purposes and its experience of

Wm. D. Carter, Esqr.,
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