

164,027 - 2

Ottawa, 3rd. February, 1906.

Sir:-

I have the honour to refer to Mr. Inspector Graham's report of his inspection of the Assiniboine Agency transmitted by your office on 6th. June last, and to subsequent correspondence in connection therewith and to inform you as follows:-

The condition of affairs as disclosed by the report took the Department entirely by surprise and caused it great disappointment, particularly in view of the very favourable character of the showing which had been disclosed by previous inspections.

In letter from your office 110/3 of 21st. November last the opinion is expressed that the report was characterized by undue severity, but the Department can hardly accept mitigant representations couched in such general terms against the very specific and circumstantial criticisms made by the Inspector.

The only ground upon which the Department feels justified in condoning the condition of affairs disclosed is that in view of the general progress and improvement accomplished by the Agent in former years, the state of things described by the Inspector may be regarded as unusual and abnormal, and the explanation which suggests itself to the Department is that the overtaxing of the Agent's

David Laird,
Indian Commissioner,
Winnipeg,
Man.

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