

254,007-8

Ottawa, 31st. March, 1908

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 3rd. instant transmitting a resolution of the Band relative to the case of J.B. Angus and reporting as to it and other cases of immorality among the Indians, and in reply to inform you as follows:-

As to J.B. Angus and the widow Martin, it seems regrettable, that under the circumstances they cannot give effect to their desire to get married, but as Department advised him in a letter on May 12th, 1907 so long as he is aware and for seven years after he has ceased to be aware that his wife is alive, his attempted marriage with any other woman would expose him to prosecution for bigamy, and under all the circumstances the Department fails to see that anything can be done in the matter.

As to John Angus, senior and Susan Wahboone, the Department is not aware of any other force than moral suasion being available to induce them to get married, and if as stated he has an affection for the woman, and talks about marrying her, it would not appear that there can be any insuperable difficulty in getting him to carry out his asserted intention.

In the case of Stephen J. Elliott and Mrs. Christian

Johnson

John McIver, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
McIver,  
Ont.

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,  
26 March 1908 - 15 April 1908, (R.G. 10, Volume 5196)

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