

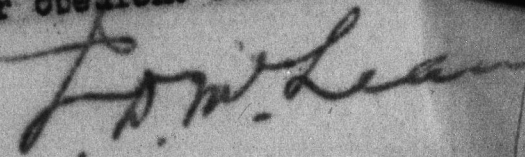
254,030-20

Ottawa, December 7th, 1915.

Sir,-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, in regard to the case of Joseph A. Laforce, who has asked for assistance in the way of shingles to roof his house; and in reply I beg to say that the funds at the disposal of the Department will not admit of furnishing the aid which you recommend in this case. In view of the fact that Laforce is resident, at the present time, in a rented house where he is likely to remain until the spring, it is considered that he should be able to do something towards constructing a house for himself later on. I may say that unless an Indian shows a disposition to exert himself and procure what he requires, the Department is not disposed to aid him. It is useless for you to recommend that assistance be afforded Indians who do not show any desire to improve their conditions in life and who are of indolent habits. I may say that the Department does not propose to build a house for every Indian who may see fit to apply to the Department for aid.

Your obedient servant,



Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

Chas. F. Bertrand Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Oka, Que.

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
4 December 1915 - 21 December 1915, (R.G. 10, Volume 5603)

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