

59,985-2

Ottawa, 8th. April, 1909.

Sir:-

I have the honour to request that you will read the following letter to the Council of the Chippewas.

Information has reached the Department that intoxicants are taken to and freely consumed at dances held in the Council House, and as a consequence much unseemly conduct is indulged in, and what causes the Department the greatest surprise and regret is to learn that Councillors, even if they do not directly share in such proceedings, at any rate countenance them by their presence, without apparently making any move to prevent or punish them.

The Councillors must be aware that one of the main purposes for which they are appointed is to energetically endeavour to preserve law and order among their band, and that failure to fulfil this duty constitutes such incompetency as under the provisions of section 96 of the Indian Act renders them liable to deposition from office and if persisted in must inevitably have such results

The Department however, has a better opinion of the Councillors than to believe that what it now refers to is more than a temporary aberration from duty, and it has sufficient confidence in them to believe that when they think matters over, they will recognise it to be their duty in future by every means possible and especially by setting a good

S. Sutherland, Esq.,
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Ont.

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