

quantity of rations for the subsistence of a party of four or five men during a five months journey in canoes, and interrupted by long and fatiguing portages. Mr. McColl, therefore, had to buy provisions as he went, paying frequently exorbitant prices for them, and being obliged to share them with Indians, whose reserves were visited by him in the interests of the Department.

4th. Neither can the steersmen, canoeemen, and others employed on special service, be considered to belong to the class of "other employes" provided for in the Order in Council, they being a class quite distinct from the ordinary interpreter and laborer usually employed by an Agent.

With respect to the charge for medicines, amounting to \$5.75, which you state should be deducted from the wages of Wm. Prince and R. Gowdison, it may, in reply, be sufficient to remark that medicines, in proper quantities, are always considered to be a necessary element in the supplies for such long journeys, and that voyageurs are not required to provide medicines for themselves any more than are sailors on board a ship at sea.

The foregoing remarks apply equally to the case of Mr. Inspector Wadsworth, in regard to which a letter was addressed by you to this Department on the 21st ultimo.

With respect to the payment of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to Mr. A. Patrick, on account of the balance due A. P. Patrick, and to be paid by the Department to I. G. Baker & Co., a voucher for the payment of the whole sum retained from Mr. Patrick for credit of that firm, viz. Two thousand two hundred and forty dollars and thirty-six cents (\$2,240.36) will shortly be furnished you by this Department. It is proposed to pay the balance of two hundred and forty dollars and thirty-six cents (\$240.36), to Baker & Co. without delay.

With regard to the payment of five hundred dollars (\$500), to Mr. Dewdney, for which you state an Order in Council is necessary, I beg to say that, although it had been determined in Council not to pay expenses of officers and their families, such as that performed by Mr. Dewdney, the payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) was especially directed to be made by the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, an understanding to that effect having been had with Mr. Dewdney, prior to the passage of the Order in Council prohibiting the payment of such expenses.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. VANKOUGHNET,

*Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.*

J. LORNE McDOUGALL, Esq.,  
Auditor-General.

OTTAWA, June 6, 1882.

SIR,—On examining the Annuity Pay-lists of Manitoba and the North West Territories, I observe that:—

(1.) The receipt or mark of the Indians is in no case obtained.

(2.) The pay list is generally marked as follows: "Certified Correct" and signed by one or more Agents.

The Indians, I understand, refuse to sign the pay lists or make a mark opposite their names, acknowledging the receipt of their annuities.

In view of these facts, I would suggest that a legal declaration of the paying agent and his assistant should be attached to each pay list covering the following:—

(a) Giving the position of the deponent as agent, assistant, &c.

(b) That the money as set down on the pay list was paid in the presence of the deponent.

(c) That each Indian named on the pay list is entitled under treaty to the amount set opposite his or her name.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. VANKOUGHNET, Esq.,

J. L. McDOUGALL,

*Deputy Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,*

*Auditor-General.*

Ottawa.