Ottawa, February 13, 1917.

sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, addressed to the Deputy Superintendent General relative to settlement for Gibson burned timber under your contract of Feb. 21st, 1914, I have to state that the Indian Superintendent at Parry Sound had no authority for issue of permits to Indians of Gibson Band to cut timber on their locations on condition of payment only of dues at 60 cents per M. As you are aware, the timber had already been sold to you for \$6.81 per M. ft., B. M., which rate the Department must realize for the Indians. I may say, however, that the Department is willing to give consideration to the claim made by you as to direct payments to Indians.

The agreements to which you refer in your letter of the 9th are not in themselves evidence of money paid, and the Department before considering any allowance for repate must be furnished with sworn statements from the Indians who have received royalty, bonus or stumpage from you showing clearly the amount paid to them for labour and the amount as bonus of their timber. These affidavits must be subscribed to before the Indian Superintendent at Parry Sound and forwarded to the Department as soon as Your obedient Servant, possible.

Asst. Deputy & Secretary.

A. McGibben, Esq., Penetanguishene, Ont.

> Indian Affairs. Letterbook, 5 February 1917 - 20 February 1917, (R.G. 10, Volume 5659)

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