

461,396.

Ottawa, March 22nd., 1916.

Sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I beg to say that in April, 1915 this Department offered a prize of \$25.00 to the Indian in each Indian Agency in British Columbia who had the best managed and cared for farm. The prizes were awarded on points obtained according to a schedule submitted by the Inspector of Indian Agencies for the district. The Judges were Mr. Tom. Wilson, Inspector of Indian Orchards in British Columbia, and the Department's Inspector. The marks obtained by the Indians, and the result of the competition were so satisfactory that the Department decided to give three prizes namely, \$25.00, \$15.00 and \$10.00 in each Agency, instead of one, and also to award a diploma to the winner of the first prize as certain of the Indians expressed a desire for something of that kind.

I may say that the Department has decided to continue to award prizes along the lines above indicated in the different Agencies in British Columbia. Prizes of \$3.00, \$2.00 and \$1.00 will also be awarded to Indians who cultivate gardens and grow therein vegetables and flowers, but who are not in a position to do farming work. There are 15 Indian Agencies in British Columbia. They lie within three Inspectorates, namely, South-eastern, Southwestern and Northern. Prizes for farming were awarded in the first two Inspectorates. In the Northern Inspectorate agriculture is not pursued to a sufficient extent to warrant the Department awarding prizes to the Indians but in

The Editor & Chief,
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this

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
21 March 1916 - 4 April 1916, (R.G. 10, Volume 5617)

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