

158,599

Ottawa, 24th March, 1903.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your joint letter of 5th instant asserting that during the last few years there has been an increasing prevalence of immorality among Indians of the Reserve, and proceeding to state that last summer Ben Jackson (alleged by you to be of illegitimate birth) was admitted to membership in the Band and that although Solomon E. James was credited with having moved the resolution at the meeting of Council which led to the admission of Jackson, as a matter of fact he neither did so nor had any knowledge of it.

In reply I beg to state that the result of inquiry into your assertions relative to the prevalence of immorality tends to show that while there may be a good deal to regret in this direction, immorality is not on the increase, and there would not appear to be any call for special interference on the part of the Department at the present juncture.

With reference to the case of Jackson, as the Department's reason for deciding to authorize his admission was that it was satisfied by the evidence submitted to it that he was the legitimate son of a member of the Band, it would not appear to be of much consequence whether a mistake was made or not as to the name of the mover of the

Messrs John Cameron and Solomon E. James,

Saugeen Reserve,

Chippewa Hill, Ont.

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
23 March 1903 - 16 April 1903, (R.G. 10, Volume 5023)

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