

Ottawa, Aug. 27, 1909.

Sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 16th inst. with further reference to the desire of some of the Indians of James Smith's band that Chief James Head be deposed, I beg to say that the Department does not understand what you mean when you say "it would be well if they were informed officially of their error". As you are aware, Councillors Bernard Constant and Jacob McLean were informed on the 12th ult. that, as the chief was appointed for an indefinite term, it is not possible to depose him except on the ground of dishonesty, intemperance, immorality or incompetency; a copy of the letter referred to having been sent you on the same date.

*ask*  
*H.C.R.*

You might remind the councillors who are dissatisfied with the chief that no change in the term of chiefship was made in the appointment of James Head, as they themselves were appointed for life and the three-year system has not yet been applied to bands in the new provinces.

I may remark that after the death of Chief James Smith the authority to appoint a successor was conveyed to the Indian Agent at that time for the Duck Lake Agency, Mr. W. E. Jones, on June 24, 1903; but the file in this matter does not show that Mr. Jones ever informed the Department of the name of the new chief appointed by him; however the Department has no doubt that Mr. Jones appointed James Head as chief.

Your obedient servant,

Jas. Macarthur, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Duck Lake, Sask.

Secretary.