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Ottawa, February 18, 1909.

Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15th instant, in regard to the question as to whether the lessee of land covered by lease No. 55 is entitled thereunder to tap the maple trees, and in reply to say that the lease provides that the lessee shall not at any time during the term of the lease lop, top, cut down or destroy any timber or trees growing on the land further than may be necessary for fuel, fences and building timber for the use of the premises and to be used thereon. Under the provisions of the lease, any act which would tend to destroy the timber would not be permissible, but if the trees were tapped under modern methods and so as not to injure them, the lessee would appear to have the right to tap trees for the purpose of obtaining sap for sugar.

Your obedient servant,

  
Secretary.

W. C. Van Loon, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Hagersville, Ont.