

239,733

Ottawa, 25th March, 1903.

Chief :-

With further reference to ~~your~~ petition addressed to His Excellency the Governor General, I am directed to inform you that, after having communicated with the Indian Commissioner at Winnipeg on the subject of the desire of your Band to become enfranchised, it is considered that as a number of your Indians still follow to a large extent the Indian customs and habits in their manner of living, the time has not quite arrived when they should be enfranchised. It is hoped, however, that you will use your influence with your Indians to induce them to qualify themselves for enfranchisement as soon as possible so that the Department may be in a position to comply with their request.

As regards the desire of your Indians for additional land, I beg to say that when the reserve was surveyed in 1881 they numbered 50 families, or a total population of 250, whereas at the present time the population of your Band is only 215, so that you have more land per head at the present time than when the reserve was granted. However, your request for further land will be considered when the question of enfranchisement is finally dealt with.

As to your request for the re-establishment of a day-school on your reserve, you will remember that such a school was opened and operated for sometime, but with very poor success owing to the irregular attendance of the children.

Chief Standing Buffalo,

C/o Wm. M. Graham, Esq.,

Indian Agent,

Qu'Appelle, Assa.

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