

25400-53

Ottawa, June 9, 1905.

Sirs,-

In reply to your letter of the 1st inst. referring to the death of John Skin and Frank Day, two of the twelve chiefs who were elected on June 20, 1899, for the St. Regis band, and asking to be allowed to appoint two life chiefs to replace them, I have to remind you that the chiefs referred to were elected for a term of three years under the Indian Act, and in no sense were they elected for life, and that at present there is no council on the St. Regis reserve, no election having been held since the expiration of the term of the late council, namely, June 20, 1902.

As for your oft-repeated request for a return to the old system of life chiefship—abolished on your reserve for good reasons, with which you are familiar, by Order of His Excellency in Council on June 9, 1888—it seems almost unnecessary to state again, as the last time you were informed, through Mr. Loran Pike, was so recently as Jan. 23, last, that the Department does not consider that a return to the old system of life chiefship would be in the interest of the band. There cannot, therefore, be any use in further agitating this matter.

Your obedient Servant,

Mr. John Louis and other Indians,
St. Regis, Que.

Lawrence
Deputy Supt. General
of Indian Affairs.