

8945/4B

Ottawa, 4th Nov., 1904.

Sir,-

In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, asking for information on the subject of the case against Joseph K. Gabriel, an Indian of the Lake of Two Mountains, I have to inform you as follows,-

The Indians who are now known as the Oka Indians belong to three tribes, the Nipissinguas, Algonquins and Iroquois. These were in the early days, when Canada was under French rule, gathered about the mission of the St. Sulpician priests of Montreal. Owing to the ease with which the Indians procured intoxicants there, the Sulpicians removed their mission in 1701 to Sault au Recollet. This did not secure immunity from the evil, and the Sulpicians prevailed upon the Indians in 1717 to again remove, this time to the lands at the Lake of Two Mountains, regarding the ownership of which there has been so much controversy.

Copies of the deed under which the Seminary of St. Sulpice and the Indians base their claim to the lands in question are attached hereto.

Investigations have been held and reports made on the two claims in 1763 by the Commander of the Forces and Governor of Montreal, in 1786 by the Privy Council, whose report with the documents in connection therewith covers three hundred pages of foolscap, in 1789 by the Attorney General and by the Solicitor General in the same year, by a Committee of the Executive Council in 1836, by Judge Badgely and by the Minister of Justice,

the

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