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Ottawa, September 17, 1910.

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The Department has been advised that two Indians of Fort Douglas, B. C., have been arrested and held on the charge of murdering J. A. Barrick, a merchant of Lytton, and are now in jail at Kamloops awaiting trial at Clinton on October 4.

A request has been made by the friends of the Indians to have Mr. James Murphy, Barrister, of Ashcroft, employed by the Department to defend them. The Inspector of Indian Agencies, Mr. K. C. MacDonald, reports that he has discussed the matter with the Chief of the Provincial Police of Lytton, who informed him that the evidence against the Indians is purely circumstantial, and that he did not think it possible to convict them.

Mr. Murphy, it may be stated, was employed by the Department to defend two Indians charged with murder under authority of a letter of your Department of January 24 last. May I ask whether authority may be given to employ him in the present instance.

Your obedient servant,



Secretary.

E. L. Newcombe, Esq., K.C.,

Deputy Minister of Justice,

Ottawa.

