

desire to encourage Indians to settle along the railway lines, and that he should notify these Indians to return inland where they would be under the direct supervision of Dr. Tyrer who would be in a position to look after their needs for relief. My opinion now is that these Indians are being too generously rationed at Pagwa, and I think the Post Manager of Revillon Freres Trading Company should be so advised.

At Osnaburgh I went carefully into the Relief Accounts, and have no hesitation in stating that the relief issued and charged for by the Patricia Stores is entirely too great. I think at the very outside the Relief Accounts at this point should not exceed 50.00, and unless they are kept down to this amount, I would suggest that the authority to issue relief by him be entirely withdrawn.

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Fires, etc.

North of the Albany River I observed many large bush fires destroying in many cases the timber on large limits. I received from Mr. Parsons, Assistant District Forester, of the Department of Lands and Forests, at Sioux Lookout, a letter informing me that in many cases the Indians were responsible for these fires, and soliciting my cooperation by reprimanding certain Indians whom he suspected. I interviewed these Indians, but they declared their innocence. I, however, brought to the attention of the Indians the seriousness of fires which destroyed not only the timber, but also ruined the district as the haunt of the wild and fur-bearing animals. At the same time I also did my best to impress them with the necessity of protecting the female moose which actually brought food to their doors.

Morality.

On the whole the morality of the Indians is very fair. A few cases were brought to my attention, which I dealt with as I thought best. I am sorry to report however, the arrest of four Indians at Osnaburgh for breaking into the Hudson's Bay Company's store at Pickle Lake. These Indians have acknowledged the wrong, but the case will be dealt with by the Ontario police who now have the matter in hand.

Trapping and hunting.

The question of hunting and trapping is a momentous one. The Indians in the northern part of the Province have always depended for their living upon these occupations, claiming the fur-bearing animals as their heritage.

Much uneasiness exists among them because of the apparent decrease of the fur-bearing animals, the chief cause of the decrease being attributed by them to the ingress of white hunters and Indians from the older parts of the Province. The Provincial Government which controls these industries has always manifested a sympathetic attitude towards the natives, and has given them already special valuable and exclusive concessions regarding the trapping of beaver and otter.

The Indians however, feel that as they have no other gainful employment than that of trapping and fishing, further steps should be taken to protect them by placing greater restrictions on the hunting and trapping privileges granted to whites. I have discussed this question with the Indians and with several representative

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