

1888/9

Ottawa, 8th March, 1912.

Sir,

The Department has been asked to make a grant of \$800.00 towards the maintenance of the Bury Road, in the Municipality of St Edmunds, County of Bruce. A similar request, to which the Department did not accede, was made in 1908, it being considered that this Department had already contributed sufficient funds towards the maintenance of roads in the Saugeen Peninsula. The sum of \$17,492.11 was expended on roads and bridges between the years 1885 and 1887. In 1893-4 \$2950.00 was expended on roads, the amount being divided between seven townships, one of which was St Edmunds, and in 1895 a further sum of \$1036.25 was expended to complete roads in the Township of St Edmunds.

The reason assigned for asking for the grant of \$800.00 towards maintenance of the Bury Road is that it is said to traverse for two and one half miles the front of an Indian reserve. The reserve referred to was set aside under authority of Order in Council of the 19th November, 1895 (copy of which is herewith enclosed) as a hunting ground for the Chippewa Indians of Saugeen and also for the Chippewas of Cape Croker. The land in question lies within the township of St Edmunds. The question arises as to whether the Indians are using this reserve for the purpose for which it was set aside. If they do not use it for hunting purposes it might be well to have it surrendered for sale. The Department desires to have you thoroughly investigate this matter, and report thereon, setting forth the facts, and making a recommendation, both as to the question of the grant, and as to the advisability or otherwise of obtaining a surrender of the land, with a view to sale.

Your obedient servant.

J. G. Ramaden, Esq.,

Chief Inspector of Indian Lands.

Asst. Deputy & Secretary.

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