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Ottawa, 25th August, 1902.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th instant transmitting a resolution of the Indian Council protesting against the curtailment of their fishing limits and calling upon the Department to protect their interests in the matter.

In reply I beg to point out that nothing has been advanced by the Council or yourself to show that the band in any way suffers from the contraction of the limits, nor did Mr. Timber Inspector Chitty, who you say was present at the meeting at which the matter was discussed, learn of any facts to indicate that such is the case.

There are of course two sides to every question, and while the Indians are not unnaturally engrossed by theirs, they should not be surprised if the provincial authorities desire to make what they consider the fairest arrangement in the interests of all classes of the community concerned.

They must moreover, clearly understand that all that is within the power of the Department is to represent their case to the Provincial Government and when that Government has decided that in fairness to others the limits should be curtailed, if the Department were to protest on no better ground than the only one so far advanced by the Indians, viz: enjoyment of the privilege in the

past

John McIver, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Cape Croker,
Ont.

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
31 July 1902 - 25 August 1902, (R.G. 10, Volume 5003)

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