

115620/10

Ottawa, November 2, 1910.

Sir,

11-14

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo and I have to thank you for your views upon the question of assistance to ex-pupils of Indian boarding and industrial schools.

In reply I beg to say that when the letter of July 2nd, 1909, was drafted the main object that the Department had in view was to enable the Indians, particularly those of the plains, to commence active life for themselves upon discharge, instead of allowing them to return to the reserves and lapse into the mode of life of their parents, as had been the case in many instances. There is no doubt that conditions in your Agency and British Columbia as a whole are not the same, but still there may be, as you say, isolated cases where assistance from the Department ~~may~~ be of material benefit.

Up to the present time all assistance granted in British Columbia under the terms of the letter above referred to has been of a very moderate kind. Some boys, who wish to follow the trade of carpentering and who were reported efficient, have been supplied with tools and others with a limited quantity of lumber to erect homes for themselves. In some cases girls who were efficient seamstresses have been given

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