

254014-55

Ottawa, 1st April, 1915.

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, making further report with regard to Indians of Big Cove Band whose names were submitted with your communication of the 12th ultimo; and in reply I beg to say that the Department desires to be informed of the name of the person who told you that assistance has been granted each year to these people. The Department, I may say, has no record of any annual grant having been made to them. If they are not receiving aid at the present time, you should state in what way they obtain necessary food. Are these people working, if so they should not be applicants for assistance, ^{from} the Department? The funds at the disposal of the Department for relief purposes are exceedingly limited, and aid is only given in cases of actual destitution. The Department does not wish you to allow any old or sick persons to suffer for the want of actual necessaries, but Indians generally should be given to understand that they must work and provide for their support. The able bodied members of a family should look after those who are naturally dependent upon them. In making recommendation for assistance, you should assure yourself in every case that the applicant for aid is deserving before you recommend relief issues. There is no definite reason why all of the people mentioned on the list, which you forwarded on the 12th of March, should be assisted.

If

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