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Ottawa 24th March 1903-

Sir-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th Instant, relative to the issue of a Patent for the water frontage of Lots 6, 7 and 8, Bay, Street, Manitowaning, and asking to be advised as to the policy of the Department in regard to the disposal of the purchase money in this and any future cases that may arise.

In reply, I beg to state that it would appear to be more satisfactory to this Department, if your Department would forego the payment over of moneys received for Water Lots, in public harbours, which have not been patented.

The total number of unpatented lots does not exceed twenty, and the total consideration for the sale of these Lots is about \$1500.00, which moneys have been credited to Indian Funds, in some cases for fifteen years. It is not desirable to disturb the funds, and if the money was paid over to your Department out of those funds, and the same objected to by the Indians, it might be necessary to ask Parliament to recoup their funds by vote, so that in the end the Dominion Exchequer might not benefit through the demand of your

Colonel Gourdeau,
Deputy Minister of
Marine & Fisheries,
Ottawa.-

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
23 March 1903 - 16 April 1903, (R.G. 10, Volume 5023)

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