

Indian Department
Quebec

Aug⁶ 9. 1862

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the Government, has by an order in Council of the 6th instant, decided to withdraw the charge of Timber on the Indian Reservations, and all business connected therewith, from the Crown Lands Department, and has committed the charge of the Timber on such lands entirely to this Department.

As the visiting Superintendent to whom has been confided the local affairs, of the Sarnia, Muesey Town, Moravian & Mjædish Indians - and other settlements - The protection of the Timber, on these reserves, and the sale of it when such has been determined upon by, any Band. will now devolve upon you -

You will perceive by reference to the Official Gazette - that by an order in Council of the 5th of May last, the provisions, of the 23rd Chapter of the Statutes is made to apply to the timber on all Indian Lands

This with the recent order in
Council

enables the Department, with perfect safety, to control timber cut without License on any reserve, whether by Indians or others. And on no pretext whatever must even a single tree, be allowed to be sold, unless. Cut under License

You must impress forcibly upon the Indians under your charge, that the Timber, is a property, the right to sell which, (for their own benefit) was vested their Grandfathers, nor theirs, nor their children, but whenever sold, must be made the means, as their land when it is sold, of yielding a permanent fund for the support, Education, and advancement of them and their people for all time to come.

No Timber, Staves, Saw Logs Cord wood or Lath wood, or wood manufactured for other uses, to be cut except under your license, and will be subject to seizure & forfeiture, if removed or attempted to be removed, without first the payment of the dues - And no permit is to be granted, until the Timber or Wood, as the case may be has been accurately measured, and the dues paid -

You will understand that you will be held personally responsible for the payment of these dues, and you are required to keep a careful record of this

timber business, keeping the usual books of account, transmitting with you monthly, land returns, a statement of money & account of timber ^{sales} during the month - So that the different bands may receive credit for the sums realized which will, be inserted for their benefit in the same manner as moneys received on account of land payments

You will make the Indians understand that these regulations are not intended, to prevent them from using all the timber they require for firing or building purposes or fencing - but as for years past quantities of timber, has been sold, on different Reserves, and Cord woods of the best kinds, cut through all parts, without any attempt at securing land. It became necessary for the Government to interfere to prevent, that property which should be made a benefit to the Indians for future times from being all squandered away in a few years -

Should any of the Indians disregard these regulations, laid down by the Government for the general good, you will please to intimate to them that such conduct may necessitate the stoppage of their individual half yearly payments, a mode of punishment to which the Department will be most unwilling to resort -

Sales of

Timber to a great extent are reported to have been made on the Reserve at Canadore. You will therefore ascertain as correctly as possible the quantity and value of the Timber and Staves purchased, and the parties Indians or others, who have been guilty of this sort of wrong doing -

The amount of profits made by any Indian out of such unlawful transactions, should be taken from the monies payable to him carrying the accounts stopped to the general funds of the band - Thus giving to their permanent funds the benefit of all timber, whether cut lawfully or unlawfully,

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt Servant

J. Gray

Wm Spragg -

1854

Dues payable by various Indians for timber cut on Licenses on their Reserves -

Oak timber per thousand feet	\$25.00	
West India Staves "	2	
Pine " "	6.50	
Soft Wood per Cord	10	7 feet on Chain
Hard " " "	15	5 on Chain