

APPENDIX.

LETTERS FROM A. READE, ESQUIRE, TO MR. PERLEY.

(1)

Government House, Fredericton, 16th June, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and to convey to you His Excellency's thanks for your Report and suggestions for improving the condition of the Indians.

His Excellency desires me to state that he concurs with you in the objections entertained to the system of making presents to them, at least so far as the adults are concerned, and that he is convinced of the necessity of securing to them their lands, of preventing encroachments, and securing to them all the advantages to be derived from their permanent possession.

The Lieutenant Governor considers that it will be a primary object to provide for the education of the children, males and females, and more especially of the very young, so that settled habits of order, industry and morals may be early implanted, and that to effect this nothing will be more conducive than the establishment of Infant Schools. As these Institutions have not been hitherto introduced excepting at Saint John and Fredericton, the Lieutenant Governor thinks it would be advisable to form them in situations convenient for the Indians, but not to the exclusion of other children in the neighbourhood of their settlements, as it is not desirable to bring up their children as an exclusive class or caste, but rather to blend them with others who ought also to be taught to regard the Indians as their fellow Christians and fellow subjects.

Teachers have been sent out to the West Indies who have formed training schools in which the children of every Christian denomination are now receiving religious and general instruction; and His Excellency thinks that schools on this plan may be formed, the introduction of which would have the immediate effect of arresting the mortality amongst the Indian children, by inducing the Indians to leave their children at the settlements while they travel about the Province, or go on hunting expeditions, a proposal which some of them have already expressed their readiness to adopt.

His Excellency approves of the distribution of Seed Corn and Potatoes for planting, and will be prepared, to the extent of the grant, to reimburse any advances which as Commissioner you may have made on this account, and which may be required for the relief of the aged and infirm, but for this object it would be necessary to state to His Excellency the precise amount you may require.

The formation of a School of Industry, on the plan of the School now in operation at Norwood, for the London Parishes, would be very desirable, but its object should not be confined exclusively to the Indians.

Having understood, during his recent visit to Woodstock, that it would be inconvenient to the Indians at Tobique to come down to the Village near Fredericton to meet you as one of their Chiefs, His Excellency directs me to suggest that you should either meet them at Woodstock or visit the settlements on the Saint John's in succession.

I have to add that the Lieutenant Governor will be glad to confer with you on these interesting subjects whenever you visit Fredericton.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esquire, &c. &c. &c.

(2)

Fredericton, N. B. 19th June, 1841.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 16th June, I am directed to request that in stating to His Excellency the precise amount required for the Indians, and which you estimated at £15, you would accompany that statement with the particular return of the Indians in whose behalf the money is to be expended, shewing their number and location, and the general object to which the money is to be applied.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A. READE.

Moses H. Perley, Esq. Commissioner Indian Affairs.

(3)

Fredericton, N. B. 23d June, 1841.

SIR,—I am to acknowledge your letter of the 20th instant, and to state that His Excellency approves that the plan you have in contemplation of visiting the various Settlements of the Indians in succession, and is desirous that you should put yourself in communication with the other Commissioners for Indian Affairs in the different parts of the Province, and visit their outlying Settlements, and he will be prepared to recommend the reimbursement of any moderate charges incurred by you for travelling expenses.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks it may be desirable to point out to the Indians that it is in contemplation to open Schools in situations convenient to their Settlements, and to allot them Lands in those situations for their subsistence. Also to establish loan funds, whereby they and others will be enabled to obtain the means of providing themselves with root houses and seeds and agricultural

implements—which loans will be repaid by small instalments—that the object being to admit them to a participation in all the advantages conferred on their fellow subjects, the descendants of Englishmen, they will have the same opportunities of acquiring wealth, and their children the same means of acquiring the knowledge which will raise their condition.

I am directed further to inform you, that besides the allotment of lands for their individual occupation, it is contemplated to protect their interests in what are commonly called the 'Indian Reserves,' and as the product of those lands in Timber, &c., will be held for their benefit generally, it is not desirable that the Indians should enter into separate engagements with individuals for the right of occupancy or of lumbering—in which it is to be feared that advantages are not unfrequently taken of them by improper persons to the serious prejudice of the whole; under this plan each person or family having lands for themselves will have the free disposal of their own allotment and a general interest in the remainder, and the funds arising therefrom will be applied to objects for the benefit of themselves and their children.

A Plan of the Tobique Lands has been ordered and will be transmitted to you as soon as prepared.

I have, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

A. READE.

M. H. Perley, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

(4)

Fredericton, N. B., 8th September, 1841.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 4th instant, with inclosures reporting for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, the proceedings of yourself, Messrs. O'Halloran and Rolland, in your visit to the Indian Tribes and their reserves in the vicinity of Miramichi, and having laid the same before the Lieutenant Governor, I am directed to apprise you of the satisfaction His Excellency has derived from the effect of your exertions, and to express his acknowledgements for the co-operation rendered you by Captain O'Halloran and Lieutenant Rolland. The translation of the Lord's Prayer by the former officer, is very interesting, and the Lieutenant Governor is gratified to learn that it is his intention to make further translations from the Scriptures and especially from the Gospels, in the Micmac language; and if Captain O'Halloran would forward copies of these translations, the Lieutenant Governor will direct their publication for the use of the Indians.

I am directed further to signify to you His Excellency's approval of the manner in which the timber seized by you has been disposed of, and to request that a detailed and separate Report may be made in regard to the lands and squatters on them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed)

A. READE.

Moses H. Perley, Esq., Commissioner of Indian Affairs, &c. &c. &c.

(5)

Fredericton, N. B., 22d December, 1841.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge, by direction of the Lieutenant Governor, your letter of the 11th inst., containing a Report of the state of the Indians, their lands, &c., founded on your observations, during your recent visit to their Settlements in this Province.

The Lieutenant Governor has perused with much interest the details therein communicated, and views them as an evidence of the zeal and intelligence which you have evinced for the preservation and progressive improvement of the remnant of this unfortunate race, the aborigines of the country, who possess qualities which cannot fail to second any well directed effort with a view to reclaim them; individual examples have already come under His Excellency's observation which confirm the hope of success he has been led to entertain.

Reserving the important matters which you propose to take up in your subsequent Report, His Excellency directs me to express to you his entire concurrence in the views you entertain, that while the extensive and valuable tracts of land occupied by the Indians, continue to be held by the Crown in trust, for their benefit, and which might be more advantageously administered than at present; Village Settlements should be formed where the Indians may acquire allotments in their own right; where without any abrupt interference with their habits, they may be instructed in those arts by which they may acquire their subsistence and improve their condition.

Adverting to the mortality, especially amongst the children, by which their aggregate numbers have of late years been progressively reduced—a consequence of their unsettled habits, and their ignorance of the treatment of the disorders which so frequently prove fatal—it will be very desirable that provision should be made for the regular attendance of Medical Practitioners at their Settlements.

The formation of Infant Schools will be a means of rescuing the young from the habits of unsettled life, and as a means of practically reclaiming the Adults, their association in such Schools with the children of the white inhabitants would be very desirable, affording as it would an opportunity of imparting to them the habits congenial to an improved social condition, and His Excellency hopes