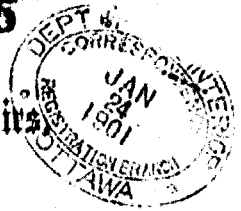


OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR OF INDIAN  
AGENCIES AND RESERVES.

641236  
Department of Indian Affairs  
PATENT



ADDRESS REPLY TO  
Inspector of Indian Agencies  
OTTAWA

PATENT BRANCH.

Ottawa, January 19th, 1901

PAT. DIV.

JAN 26 1901

RECEIVED

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Sir,

I have the honour to report that under the commission entrusted to me to investigate and deal with Halfbreed claims in the District of Athabasca and the adjoining country covered by Treaty No. 8 not preferred before the Halfbreed Commissioners who visited the country in 1899, I last summer received and investigated 321 of such claims.

A schedule of these, together with the evidence taken is enclosed, and upon each claim I have endorsed and signed my recommendation of the claim or the reverse. Every recommendation is subject to the claim not having been already satisfied, which, by arrangement, is to be established by search of the scrip registers in the Department of the Interior.

I have been governed in dealing with these claims by a principle which I have understood was laid down in 1899 or before, viz., to allow applicants themselves to decide whether they were entitled to Halfbreed scrip or as Indians to treaty benefits though I have not felt altogether assured of the soundness of the principle. This has been done because it seemed to me that as I was

only

Honourable Clifford Sifton,

Minister of the Interior.

*Will be Separate Cover*

only winding up work commenced and to a great extent completed by others that it was proper to continue that work upon the lines which they appeared to have laid down rather than to attempt to institute fresh ones.

The only exceptions made are as follows:-

- 1st. A few cases in which the applicants were found to be very clearly Indians;
- 2nd. Applications Nos. 289 to 381 received from Whitefish Lake people who are looked upon as Indians of a band which has not treated.

I have reserved these last especially for your decision because the claimants are part of a considerable number of persons at, and north of Whitefish Lake who have not yet taken scrip as Halfbreeds or entered into treaty as Indians, and they (the claimants) were disposed to take treaty but being prevented from doing so by the unwillingness of their band to give in its adhesion they did the next best thing, as it appeared to them, and applied for scrip.

It has to be decided whether they shall be conceded the same rights as others or electing whether they will rank as Halfbreeds or Indians in view of the fact that the community of which they form a part has not yet been treated with; that when treated with its members are likely to be dealt with as Indians; and that then those scrip applicants will naturally desire the same treatment. My opinion is that the claims might be left in abeyance until the Indians of Whitefish Lake and thereabouts are treated with.

Most respectfully submitting this report,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Should be given treaty*