

235225

Ottawa, 7th June, 1904.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 30th ultimo, contents of which have been noted.

The documents which you quoted in your letter and the case known as Treaty No. 5 pending before the Exchequer Court have not been overlooked in their hearings on the question under discussion, i.e., the advisability of obtaining a cession of the Indian title to that part of the Province of Ontario North of the Height of Land. The purpose of my communication of the 30th April was to lay the matter fully before your Government with the hope of obtaining concurrence in the proposed action. The terms laid down upon which the treaty might be based are the maximum terms which would, in any event, be offered to the Indians. They are in effect the same as those fixed by the Robinson treaty, and the Government interested might be considered fortunate to cancel the Indian title at this time by considerations which were thought adequate in the year 1850. The further purpose of the communication above referred to was to invite approval by your Government of these maximum conditions. It is not thought advisable by the Government of the Dominion to enter into this Treaty without a clear understanding with your Province. At the same time it is obvious that there is a degree of urgency in the matter and that it is in the best interests of the Dominion generally as well as of the Province of Ontario that the treaty should be speedily concluded.

It is the fixed policy of this Government to pave the way for exploration, location and construction of railway lines

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