

W. S. Green

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Dear Sir

C137/9

Victoria B.C.

10th Decr 1869

Dear Sir. I have received your letter of the 1st ult. and am heartily glad to find that the Society will take up the cause of the Indians in this colony and endeavour to stir up the Colonial office. It is difficult to say in a few words what means the Government can take to ameliorate the condition of the Indians.

But in the first place in my opinion an Indian Agent should be appointed by the Government who should hold the position of Justice of the Peace, and whose business it would be to travel round to all the Indian settlements hearing their complaints and teaching them to look to him for redress. He should have a knowledge of the languages, or he must have someone to travel with him who has that knowledge; and he should

that the Gover

have an office in Victoria. There a
competent interpreter would always
be stationed, connected with this
office there ought to be a store where
Indians could get at a fair price
flour bread clothes and such like
as they require, and where they could
find a market for their mats
their bracelets, the manufactures
which is I fear going out, and for
their furs and skins. Now as regards
the expense there are several magistrates
whose services are really not required
since the amalgamation of the two
colonies. I would name Mr A. F. B. [unclear]
who holds the offices of Postmaster
General, and Registrar of deeds for the
Mainland, both these offices are
sinecures. He is a Justice of the
Peace and his standing in the
Colony is high - he has been here
some ten years and I should

suppose he has a tolerable knowledge
of Chinook. There would, if this gentleman
were appointed Indian Agent, the extra
expense as regards his salary - travelling
expenses cannot be estimated at less
than \$2000, a year and from \$2000
to \$3000 for clerks and interpreters.

The Colony would grumble at this
extra expense - but I am not at all
sure that officers already in the service
could not be told off for this work.

There should also be a fund provided
for the defence of Indians put upon
their trial for any crime - The Indian
Agent employing counsel to defend in
all cases.

Since I wrote last an Indian boy
has been tried and convicted of the
murder of an unoffending white man
living at a lonely place about 25
miles from our city. It was a brutal
murder and the boy admitted firing the

shot but said it was accidental.
But there were wounds from at
least two different discharges, this
case I trace to the evil system that
has prevailed. Whiskey has probably
been the motive power, and the
desire to possess himself of the gun
and other articles belong into the
white man. - I confidently hope to be
in England before June next, if I can
out my intention I will certainly
call upon you - in the meantime
our information that I can give
I shall cheerfully afford you

Yours

Yours very truly

F. W. Cheison Esq

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Aborigines Protection Society

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