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Ottawa, 6th August, 1891.

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Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo enclosing a petition from certain Six Nation Indians protesting against the fund being expended in the erection of buildings at Oshweken intended to be used: one as a High School and the other for the Agent's Office. As to the High School, the petition sets forth that the common schools situated at different points over the Reserve and the Industrial Institution conducted by the New England Company afford ample educational facilities for the Six Nation community; and that such of the Indians as desire for their children a different education than is thereby afforded are free to send them to the Collegiate Institute at Brantford, which is open to all classes on the payment of small fees. The petitioners also express the opinion that the expense of establishing and maintaining the proposed High School would be out of all proportion to the benefits which would accrue therefrom, and that the attendance would be

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very small. As regards the erection of a building for an Indian Office on the Reserve, the petitioners urge that Brantford is a more convenient situation for the Indian Office than would be Oshweken, as the Indians go to market at the former place. They protest against the expenditure of the funds of the Band without their consent on what they designate as visionary objects; and they assert that the erection of the buildings in question for the purposes specified is only desired by interested parties who are actuated by ulterior motives, and with whose wishes in the matter the Six Nation people are not in sympathy.

Very much the same points were taken by Chief Isaac Hill in his communication in the matter, which was referred to in previous correspondence had with you; but the Chief more explicitly maintained that the money of the people should not be expended on such objects as those under consideration without their consent being obtained, and at the mere instance of a majority of the Chiefs who form the Six Nation Council.

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs has carefully considered the petition and the previous protests received from Chief Isaac Hill, and he has come to the conclusion that the question of establishing a High School at Oshweken should be referred again to the Six Nation Council for ~~further~~ reconsideration in view of the objections, based apparently upon sound premises, which have been made by so many members of the

Band to the proposal.

The Superintendent General is likewise of opinion that it would be advisable to submit to the voting members of the Band all proposed expenditures of Band funds, outside of expenditures made, or proposed to be made, by the Department in the furtherance of the Government policy in the management of the Superintendency. He considers that such expenditure as that proposed to be made in the erection of a building or buildings for a High School should be submitted to a vote of the people. I am, therefore, to instruct you to call the attention of the Six Nation Council to the desirability of submitting the proposal to establish the High School in question and expending money thereon to a vote of the male members of the Band of 21 years and over for their ratification before any expenditure is recommended, and of adopting in future the same course in connection with any similar matters.

The transference of Indian Office from Brantford to Oshweken and the erection of a suitable building or buildings therefor at the latter place does not, however, come within the category of subjects which it is thought advisable to submit to the voting members of the Six Nation Band for their ratification before any expenditure is made. This is clearly a matter of Government policy in connection with the administration of Indian affairs, and as such is one for the Government itself to decide upon. The question of removing the Indian Office

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from Brantford to Oshweken was very carefully and fully considered before any step in that direction was decided upon, and the Department does not see any reason for altering the decision which was come to in that regard the same being considered as being in the best interest of the Indians.

Your obedient servant

*H. H. H. H. H.*

Deputy Supt. General of

Indian Affairs.