

30 June 2

Dear Mr. Dewdney,

I have received the memorandum prepared for you by Mr. McFerr respecting the cost of medical attendance and medicines in the Edmonton, Peace Hills and Saddle Lake Agencies and note your memorandum as to the very considerable cost of this service, and your opinion that it should be reduced and that a reduction might possibly be effected by making some arrangement with a Doctor to perform the service at a fixed salary and informing me

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that Dr. Wilson is anxious to make such an arrangement.

I had received, through you, Dr. Wilson's letter of the 20th instant upon this subject, pointing out his views with regard to the more perfect service that could be rendered to the Indians by a salaried physician untrammelled by private practice than they now obtain from occasional services, and it appears reasonable to suppose that there is a good deal of truth in what the Doctor says.

I find, in looking over the cost of similar services in other districts, that Dr. Girard who attends the

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 the Blood and Indian Paints, number-
 ing about 2000, receives a salary of
 \$1000 ⁰⁰ a year. We have also fur-
 nished him with a horse and
 conveyance in which he performs
 his journeys to and from M^e
 Lord. We also pay him travelling
 expenses at the rate of \$2 ⁰⁰ per
 diem. Estimating the cost of his
 horse and conveyance at \$350 ⁰⁰
 we probably pay at the rate of
 \$1 ⁰⁰ per diem for transport, and
 aside from the cost of medicine,
 the whole cash of his services to
 the Department may be summed
 as follows:—

Salary:—

\$1000.00

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horse and conveyance for an
 estimated service of 120
 days in the year, say, \$ 75.00
 Living expenses at \$2.00 per
 day for, say, 120 days, - 240.00
 Total - \$ 315.00

on an average of about 50¢

Dr. McAdam attends the Battle-
 ford and Pitt Agencies, in which
 are about 1048 Indians, and
 also the Battleford Industrial
 School, where there are 130 pupils.
 His salary is \$550.00 a year. He
 receives a further allowance, covering
 horse-hire and living expenses, of
 \$3.50 per diem, and estimating the
 days upon which his services are

rendered to the Department at 100
 the cost would be \$350⁰⁰, making
 the total to the Department for
 his services \$1200⁰⁰ a year, - an
 average of ^{about} 45¢ per head and this
 difference may be presumed he ac-
 counted for by the fact that
 he has further to travel than
 Mr. Girard. He receives about double
 the amount for travelling ex-
 penses therefore, that Mr. Girard
 does.

I think it possible that the
 cost of the service in the three
 Agencies first above mentioned
 might be reduced somewhat by
 making such an arrangement, but

I doubt whether the reduction would be very great. There is no doubt, however, that the Indians would receive better medical attendance than they do at present.

I think it unlikely that Dr. Wilson would accept less than \$1000 ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ a year for salary and travelling expenses. Whether, under such an arrangement, the cost of medicines would be decreased or not is problematical. It is possible that \$500 ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ might suffice for this service, but that, of course, could only be shown in the future.

I think that, with your

approbation, it would be well to submit the question for a full report to the Indian Commissioner before taking any definite action in the matter.

In this connection I beg to enclose herewith a further letter from Dr. Wilson, in which he points out pretty conclusively that his services as a salaried physician if rendered in the manner he indicates will occupy him every day during the entire year. That being the case I have but little hope that the services which now cost about \$1600 ⁰⁰/₁₁ a year could be rendered

for much less than \$1500⁰⁰.

Yours Sincerely,

Wm. L. Baird

Hon. E. D. Cudney,

Sup't Bureau of

Indian Affairs