

To the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington D.C.



2403
EMM

Our dear Commissioner:

The undersigned Chippewa Indians belonging to the Cass Lake, Leech Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish and Chippewas of the Mississippi bands of the State of Minnesota, hereby petition the Hon. Commissioner, that Mr. Benjamin Caswell be suspended and removed from employment in any capacity under, or in the Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency located at Cass Lake, State of Minnesota, for the reason that his personal conduct while in such employment, being at the same time actively engaged in local as well as National Politics, having affiliated in political activities with the supporters of Congressman Knut, Wefald, representing the Farmer Labor political party in this State, as well as with Webster Ballinger, of Washington D.C. and William Burnett of Mahnomen, Minnesota, who are avowed enemies of the present administration of Indian Affairs, and obtaining a purport endorsement by Indians who cannot read or write of the Bill H.R. 9343, passed by Congress February 1925, which was not approved by the President of the United States, without reading or explaining the same to the said Indians at the time of said act of endorsement, that in doing so Caswell has become a real menace to the welfare of said Chippewa Indians, and has become a political menace to the administration of Indian Affairs as well; And that while he is in such employment, he purports to hold the office of Chairman of a Council which he has turned into a political machine to advance himself in politics antagonistic to the President of the United States and of the Republican party, and antagonistic and damage to the Chippewa Indians who are under the supervision of the Agency in which he is employed, therefore his removal from the employment in the Agency immediately will be for the good of the service.

file
R.

See former + similar petitions + Commissions action on same

Peter Drumbeater	sha ga che way ge shig
Nellie Tibbets	Mary D Shotley
James Tibbets	Alex Shotley
Frank Tibbets	Sam Gogleye
George Wilson	Rayshaw sobe mark
Margaret Wilson	Ogenia Wube Judy
Bernie Smith	Pe dway Way gah bow
Virginia Smith	George Tuttle
Ed M. Wilson ^{hus}	Eugene Tibbets
mak ga zis ^{mar}	Bertha Tibbets
Edward Donnell	Frank Wink
Dewey Dupuis	Mary Smith
Emma Donnell	ah he dek be quay
George B Donnell	De best co ge shig x
Hazel L Dupuis	Robert L. Wakefield
Mrs Reynolds	
Aunt Reynolds	
Dick Drumbeater	
Mr. George M. Anoka.	
Mary Galbreath Chipman.	
Sam Lyons	
Mrs Sam Lyons.	
Mr. Harry Drumbeater.	
Mrs Maggie Curran	
Mrs Jim Drumbeater	
Mary Hatchie Apple	
Jas Commeyne	
Andrew Hotchi	
Mary Hotchi	

Inspection
1984-1925.
F H D



J. E. M.

JAN 17 1925

Mr. P. R. Wadsworth,

Supt. Consolidated Chippewa Agency.

Dear Mr. Wadsworth:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 7th submitting an explanation by Mr. Benjamin Caswell of his action in soliciting funds from the Indians for the purpose of prolonging his stay in Washington to handle legislation, in the event he were called before the Senate Committee on the jurisdictional bill.

His explanation will be accepted with the understanding that he and all other employees will be advised that the Office disapproves of such a practice.

In view of your recommendation that his services be retained, no action will be taken at this time.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Chas. H. Burke

Commissioner.



FILED BY L. D.

INITIALING COPY FOR FILES.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cass Lake, Minn.,
January 7, 1925.



Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

Reference is made to your letter to me dated December 18, 1924, relative to Mr. Benjamin Caswell, one of our Indians.

Upon receipt of your said letter this matter was taken up by me with Mr. Caswell and I asked him to write what he had to say about it.

Just at the close of our working day yesterday he handed to me a letter addressed to you and stated that what he had to say about the matter referred to was stated in the said letter to you.

His said letter to you is sent to you herewith.

It may be noted that he says that he has not received any money at all from the source to which reference is made. And I do not have the slightest doubt but what he is telling the absolute truth in this relation.

In closing you request me to submit my recommendation as to whether Mr. Caswell's services should be dispensed with. As to this I recommend that his services be not dispensed with. It would be a real loss to our office to not have Mr. Caswell with us. I can not think of a single Indian who could fill his place as he fills it.

I heard senator Harreld tell Mr. Caswell that they would send for him and have him before the Committee in Washington this winter. This, of course, may not justify the collection of money to pay expenses, but all things considered I feel that the explanation made by Mr. Caswell is sufficient. A strong enough punishment will be to tell him to not do so any more. To remove him would be an injustice to him and it would be a mistake for several reasons.

Sincerely yours,

P. R. Wadsworth
P. R. Wadsworth,
Superintendent.

P. R. W.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

Cass Lake, Minnesota,
January 6th, 1925.



Hon. Charles H. Burke,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

I have been apprized thru the proper channel that the Indian Office hold in disfavor of the letter I wrote to Mr. Quay-koonce, Mahkoonce, Minnesota, on November 28th, 1924. To the best of my recollection and belief, the letter as quoted in the Tomahawk in the issue of December 11, 1924, is approximately correct. I am sorry I made such a mistake. I honestly believed at the time I wrote the letter, I was within the legitimate grounds for which I beg leave to explain.

When I wrote this letter to Mr. Quay-koonce, I wrote the letter as the President of the general council of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, Inc., although it was not so indicated. Mr. Quay-koonce has been consistantly a supporter of this organization. It was also understood that no money was to be furnished me unless I am actually called to Washington, D.C. I was then laboring under the impression that I would be called to Washington, because Senator Harreld, Chairman, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said in my hearing, with the consent of his Subcommittee, at Cass Lake, Minnesota on August 28, 1924, that I would be subpoenaed to appear before their full Committee when the said full Committee hold hearings on the Chippewa jurisdictional bill. Soon after this statement was made, their Secretary sent for me and took my name and address so that the Secretary may know where to send me the subpoena.

Knowing that I hold a Government position, on that account I may be allowed only transportation and necessar and actual expenses instead of a fee and mileage. I also know that our Indians are vitally interested in other bills (H.R.26,27 and 28) pending in Congress and that the subpoena I expected to be served upon me by the Senate Committee may not the other bills. I thought it was advisable to prepare for an emergency. This was the primary reason for the letter.

In about the year of 1917, possibly earlier, we, Indians, of White Earth Reservation, were made to understand by the Superintendent of said Reservation that the Indian Office had given instructions to encourage Indian councils for all Indians because the councils tend to teach the Indians how to conduct

their business meetings under parliamentary procedure which is educational for the Indians.

In your address to the Indians at Cass Lake, Minnesota, August 5, 1921, You stated that the Indians must not expect you to grant everything they may ask for, because you were not the law; that you can only make reports, recommendations and execute the laws of Congress on Indian matters; that if want anything which you could not grant for want of authority of law, you advised the Indians to go after their Congressmen; that you had no objections for any delegate coming down to Washington if they paid his expenses.

No money has been furnished me on account of the letter I wrote to Mr. Quay-koonce and if any received, every cent of it shall be returned. I have also revoked the letter I wrote to Mr. Quay-koonce. I thank the Indian Office sincerely for the timely remonstrance it has given me.

Very respectfully,

Benjamin Baswell

Thru

P. R. Wadsworth, Supt.,
Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency,
Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Inspection

F H D



DEC 18 1924

JERM

Mr. Peter R. Wadsworth,
Supt. Consolidated Chippewa Agency.

Dear Mr. Wadsworth:

Your attention is invited to a letter as printed in the Tomahawk of December 11th addressed by Benjamin Caswell to Quay Koonce in which the writer suggests that collections be made among the Indians in order to enable Mr. Caswell to stay in Washington to take up matters that will come before the Indian Committees in Congress.

Mr. Caswell's presence and services are not needed in the consideration of the jurisdictional bill and therefore he should be instructed to remain at his post of duty and to return to the donors all sums of money received or collected for the purpose outlined by him.

Being an employee of the Government and required to devote his time and energy to his official duties, his action in this matter does not meet with our approval. Please report what steps he takes to return this money and also submit your recommendation as to whether Mr. Caswell's services should be dispensed with.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Chas. H. Burke

Commissioner.

INITIALING COPY FOR FILES.

Ben Caswell Wants to Winter in Washington.

The following letter, written by Ben Caswell of Cass Lake, to a party at Makoonse Postoffice, in the Twin Lakes territory, has been handed to us. We publish it in full in order to let the Chippewas know what Caswell is up to and also for the purpose of warning the Indians against giving this man, who is an employee in the Indian Service in Minnesota, any money to get to Washington or anywhere else. If the Indian Committees of Congress cannot negotiate a jurisdictional bill without the assistance of such stool pigeons as Ben Caswell, then God help the Chippewas. Ben Caswell has no standing with the Indians anywhere, and knows about as much about the drafting of a jurisdictional bill for the Chippewas as he does about the league of nations. His sole object is to spend the winter in comfort in Washington at the expense of the poor Indians who might be foolish enough to give him money.

Caswell's letter follows:

"Cass Lake, Minn.,
Nov 28, 1924.

Mr. Quay koonce,
Mahkoonse, Minn.

Dear Sir:—

"I expect to be called to Washington, D C., to appear before one or both of the Indian Committees of Congress when the jurisdictional bill for the Minnesota Chippewa Indians is before the committees.

"The usual practice of this kind of business, is that my fare, lodging will be paid by the committee that sends for me.

"Just as soon as they are thru with me, they will pay me off and turn me loose to come home at my leisure.

"I am now asking all my friends to furnish me some money as much as they can so that I may utilize this chance so that I can stay longer and do some work for the tribe.

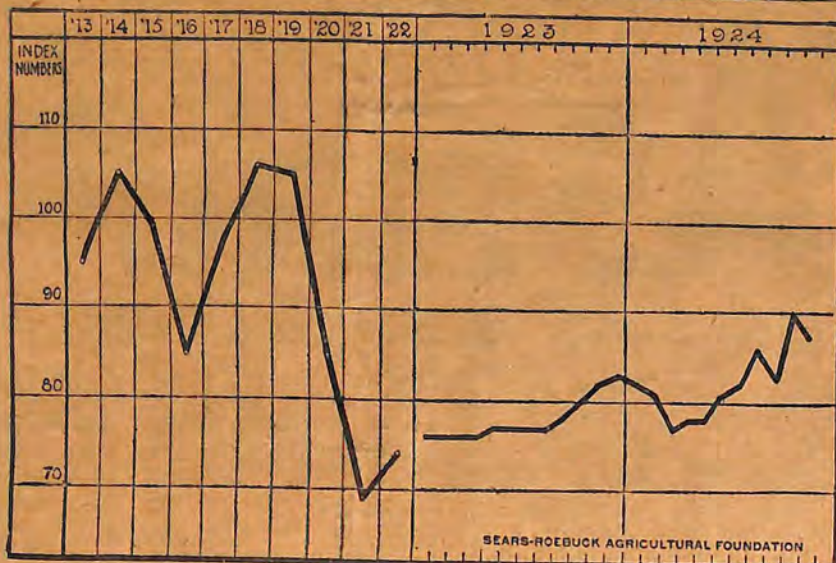
"The money that may come to me from our friends will prolong my stay at Washington and push some matters that will come to the Indian Committees of Congress for consideration.

"I can use all the money they send me because this is a great big undertaking. It will eventually involve millions of dollars.

"A few hundred dollars is a small sum to sacrifice at this time. I have spent a large sum of my own money in the past, I have no money now, or I would not ask for any.

Yours truly,
Benjamin Caswell.

Buying Power of the Farmer

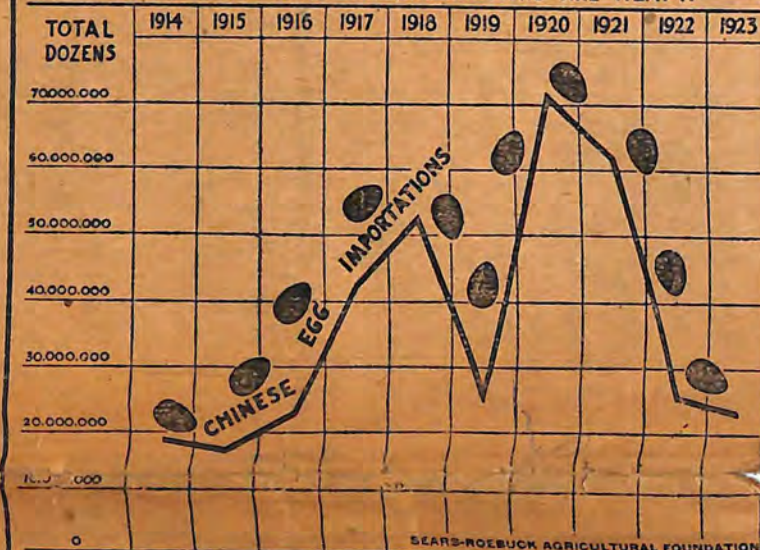


The purchasing power of farm commodities continues to rise. Latest estimates show an average of 4.8 points higher for the first eleven months of this year than during the corresponding months of 1923, according to a report of the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, based on the new index numbers of farm prices prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Farm prices show a combined value of 134 on November 1, 1924, as compared with 100 in 1913. This combined index number includes 30 farm commodities which represent more than 90 per cent of the value of products sold by farms, the Foundation points out. Using August, 1909, to July, 1914, as 100, the purchasing power of these products stood at 87 on November 1 of this year. In 1918 the purchasing power was 106, decreasing to 69 in 1921. In 1922 it rose to 74 and by 1923 the average stood at 78. During the first eleven months of this year the purchasing power of farm commodities averaged 82.3 as compared with 77.5 in the same period a year ago.

Advances in grain, which averages about 22 per cent of the total value of farm products sold, and in price of meat animals, which averages 27 per cent, have been the largest factors in the increase of the farmer's purchasing power since 1921. The grain farmer received during the early part of this year prices about 10 per cent above the pre-war five-year average. This had risen to 30 per cent increase by July. At the same time the general price level of commodities the farmer has to buy ranges 30 to 80 per cent above the 1913 level.

CHINA SHIPS MILLIONS OF EGGS TO U.S. EVEN WITH GREAT INCREASES IN OUR OWN EGG PRODUCTION AND A TARIFF WALL. IMPORTATIONS ARE HEAVY.



Chinese hens are laying millions of dozens of eggs to be beaten into American cakes and candies, in spite of the increased height of the tariff wall. Enough Chinese eggs are coming into the United States annually to furnish approximately one dozen for every family. But the Chinese hen does not compete with the American hen in supplying the eggs for the breakfast table. Of the 23,710,000 dozen coming in last year practically all were in the dried or frozen form, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation.

The American hen cannot be accused of loafing on the job. In addition to furnishing all the eggs needed for American use, she produces a huge surplus for export. Last year this surplus amounted to 30,000,000 dozen—6,290,000 dozen more than were imported. The American exports were largely eggs in the shell, which sell at higher prices than the frozen and dried eggs from China.

In 1914, just a decade ago, there were 19,000,000 dozen Chinese eggs imported. By 1918 the imports totaled 52,400,000 dozen, and in 1920 the number had climbed to 71,600,000 dozen. In 1922, the year the tariff went into effect, only 25,827,000 dozen were imported. Last year the number was still further reduced, with only 23,710,000 dozen coming in.

Present prices are not especially attractive to imports. The demand is for strictly high quality eggs, the production of which for the home markets the American hen monopolizes.

know what Caswell is up to and also for the purpose of warning the Indians against giving this man, who is an employee in the Indian Service in Minnesota, any money to get to Washington or anywhere else. If the Indian Committees of Congress cannot negotiate a jurisdictional bill without the assistance of such stool pigeons as Ben Caswell, then God help the Chippewas. Ben Caswell has no standing with the Indians anywhere, and knows about as much about the drafting of a jurisdictional bill for the Chippewas as he does about the league of nations. His sole object is to spend the winter in comfort in Washington at the expense of the poor Indians who might be foolish enough to give him money.

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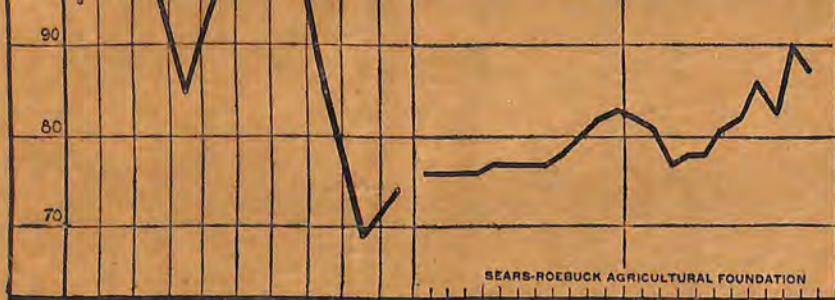
"A few hundred dollars is a small sum to sacrifice at this time. I have spent a large sum of my own money in the past, I have no money now, or I would not ask for any.

Yours truly,
Benjamin Caswell.

Xmas School Entertainment.

The faculty and pupils of the district school have been very busy the past month rehearsing and preparing for the Christmas entertainment to be held at the school Friday evening, December 19th.

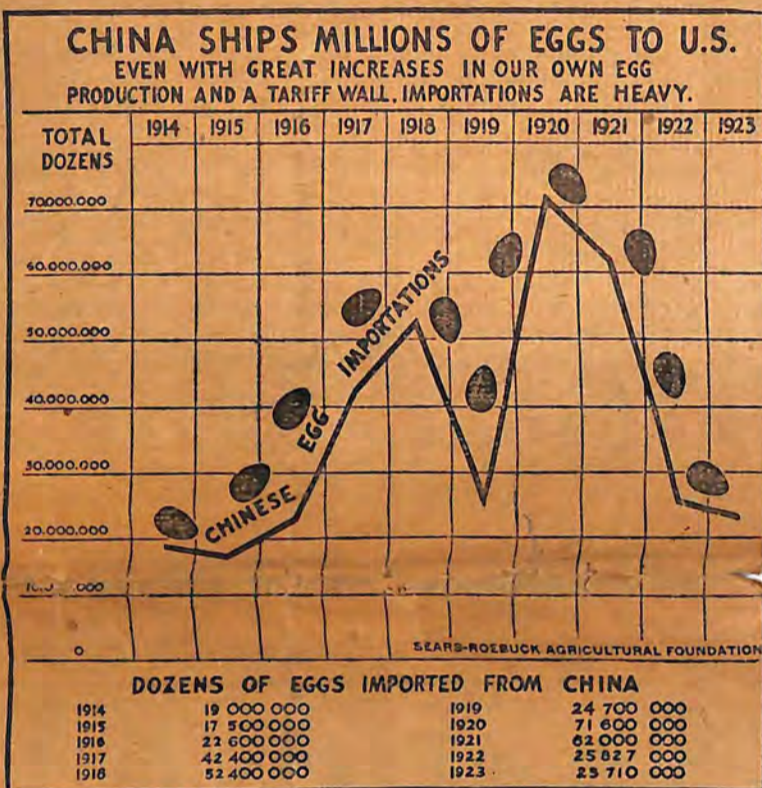
The entertainment will consist of songs, dialogues, and a playlet by the pupils. After the entertainment the fruits of a bountiful Christmas tree will be distributed to the children by Old Santa in person. The teachers and pupils are sparing no effort to make the entertainment a pleasing one and no doubt will be rewarded by a capacity house.



The purchasing power of farm commodities continues to rise. Latest estimates show an average of 4.8 points higher for the first eleven months of this year than during the corresponding months of 1923, according to a report of the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, based on the new index numbers of farm prices prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Present prices are not especially attractive to imports. The demand is for strictly high quality eggs, the production of which for the home markets the American hen monopolizes.

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—52 weekly issues

OFFER A

1. The Youth's Companion
one year \$2.50

Form 1700.
Mar., 1919.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Fy *Q*

April 13, 1923.

Copy
Chief Clerk,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.



Sir:

The Commission has the honor to request to be advised of the cause of separation from the service of Benjamin Caswell, who, it is alleged, was separated ~~on~~ in September, 1918, from the position of special agent in the Interior Department, Office of Indian Affairs.

See letter of 4/27/23
This information is desired to determine whether his separation was without delinquency or misconduct, and whether there was anything connected with his service which should operate to prevent his examination for reentrance to the service as third-class postmaster, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

FILED BY *n. A. C.*

Ed-Emp.
28024-23
HVB

R

W. J. P.

APR 12 1923

The Civil Service Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The Office is in receipt of your letter of April 5, 1923, requesting information concerning the separation from the Service of Benjamin Caswell, a former employee.

The records of this Office show that on June 30, 1916, Mr. Caswell was transferred to the Department of Justice in connection with matters relating to the Chippewa Indians. On July 1, 1922, he was again employed in the Indian Service as Chief of Police at the Consolidated Chippewa Agency, Cass Lake, Minnesota, in which position he is still employed.

Respectfully,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

4 CLR 12

Form 1700.
Mar., 1919.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Fy
[Handwritten flourish]



April 5, 1923.

Chief Clerk,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Commission has the honor to request to be advised of the cause of separation from the service of Benjamin Caswell, who, it is alleged, was separated ~~on~~ in September, 1918, on timber matters and clerk, from the position of teacher, disbursing agent, overseer/ in the Interior Department, Indian Service.

This information is desired to determine whether his separation was without delinquency or misconduct, and whether there was anything connected with his service which should operate to prevent his examination for reentrance to the service as Presidential postmaster, Cass Lake, Minnesota.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Ed-Emp.
56074-22
GWB

2

12
JUL 28 1922
W
W

Mr. Peter R. Wadsworth,
Supt., Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency.

Dear Mr. Wadsworth:

Replying to your letter of July 8th,
you are advised that under an order of the
Secretary of the Interior we are not permitted
to make promotions pending action on the Reclas-
sification bill. In view of this I am sorry
that no encouragement can be given you that it
will be possible to increase the salary of Mr.
Ben Caswell as chief of police.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Chas. H. Burke
Commissioner.

7-LM-25

If no status put in vacancy

Initialing Copy - For File

FILED BY L. D.

Handwritten signature

5-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Cir.1797
Salary List.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Consolidated Chippewa Indian Agency,
Cass Lake, Minn., July 8, 1922.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
JUL 11 1922

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
JUL 12 1922
56074

Sir:

Please refer to the salary list for this jurisdiction for the fiscal year 1923 and be advised that I would be pleased if the Office could grant an increase in the salary of Position No. 29, Chief of Police, from \$40.00 per month to \$50.00 per month.

This position is being occupied by Ben Caswell and it is my opinion that Mr. Caswell is entitled to a basic salary of \$50.00 per month. I am sure that Mr. Caswell will prove to be a valuable employee and I will appreciate it very much if your Office will grant this increase.

Very respectfully,

Handwritten initials

P.R. Nadsworth
Superintendent.

FJS.

Cass Lake, Minn., June 15th, 1922.

The Commissioner Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I hereby make application for re-instatement in the
service; I have served in the service as follows:-

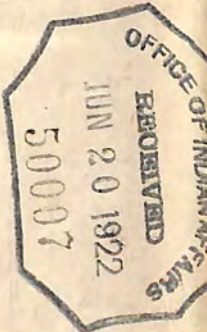
Emp

Assistant Teacher -----	1895-1896.
Teacher -----	1896-1900.
Principal in Charge -----	1901-1907.
Supt. & Spl. Disb, Agent -----	1908-1912.
Overseer on Timber Matters -----	1912-1913.
Clerk (interpreter, Dept. of Justice)---	1913-1916.
Clerk (interpreter, Exam., Inheritance)	1916-1918.

I prefer a place at Cass Lake, Minnesota under the new
agency which opens, July 1st, 1922.

Yours truly,

B. W. Benjamin Caswell
5-125 sent June 23/1922
file SW



Chippewa Indians of Minnesota

MARGARET CASWELL
SECRETARY

INCORPORATED

Cass Lake, Minn., June 15th, 1922.

TREATIES	
1854	[10 stat., 1109]
1855	[10 stat., 1165]
1863	[12 stat., 1249]
1864	[13 stat., 693]
1867	[16 stat., 719]

AGREEMENT	
1889	[25 stat., 642]



Hon. H. P. Snyder, Chairman,
Committee Indian Affairs, H.R.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

My attention was called to the photolithographic copy of a letter filed to your Committee by Mr. Webster Ballinger, a lawyer, of Washington, D.C.. The said copy of a letter appears on pages 98 and 99 of "Claims against certain Chippewa Bands, hearing before the Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives, sixty-seventh Congress on H.R. 6872, January 12 to Feb. 2, 1922."

I hereby deny absolutely the authorship of that letter; that I ever subscribed my name to such a letter. If the Nichols-Chisolm Lumber Company did receive, thru whatever channel, such a letter, which I do not question, the same was prepared or was prepared at the instance of my unfair opponents for the purpose, which is quite obvious, of using it to discredit me. My ancestral name nor my own money can never buy.

I incurred the enmity of some of Mr. Ballinger Chippewa clients because I helped the Government attorneys as an interpreter in the prosecution of the White Earth land fraud cases, in which some of Mr. Ballinger Chippewa clients were involved. I have opposed all their propositions which I deemed to be against the best interests of the tribe. I have not opposed them as a general principle of mine, but I have opposed them on their general principle of conduct on tribal matters. Mr. Ballinger seem to know one side only of the Chippewa question among the Chippewas themselves. Our chief differences do not begin within recent date. He is not qualified to speak for the whole Minnesota Chippewa tribe when he knows only a fraction of them, or he is not the proper party to speak for all the Minnesota Chippewas, if by his own election, he is unwilling to hear the other fraction of the tribe.

It is hereby requested that Mr. Ballinger furnish your Committee the original copy of the letter he filed; that if it pleases your Committee, you have this letter placed in your Committee's files.

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Caswell

Carbon copy to,-
Mr. Webster Ballinger,
Senate Committee, Ind. Affairs,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.