

S.B.B. 3/5/76

Private

Dear Frichette

In Ken's mail
is just Dapring & I drop a line
to you - as you could
not get a half-breed claim
for me I am glad you did
not go in for an Indian
one, as I should not fancy
such a claim on moral
grounds - besides I believe
it would be illegal -

You meant very well in taking
up a Homestead claim for

me & I must thank you
for your well-intentioned kind-
-ness, but in my position I
do not think it would be
right to take up a Homestead
till the Govt. had arranged
what lands they intended
to hold for the Public Service
I have consequently telegraphed
Mr. Westfall to let any in-
-tending settler understand
that I do not claim any
land there - Your taking
upon yourself to lay out
the Govt. Reserve when,

as I understand it, confidential instructions were sent to some one else may get you into trouble, but I hope not - I think the Reserve ought to have been laid off on the Saskatchewan two miles each side of Battle River, but not having seen the ground it is hard to say -

Since you left, a nice exposé has been made & you have little idea of the mine we have been sitting on, I finally got a hint before the mine was actually sprung - What do you

say to Griffiths & Wife being the
writers of all the Blackguard
letters in the Free Press, from the
"Daily Affair" to the "Sufferer" from
my tyranny & Capt. French's

Kittson is charged with at-
tempting to procure an abortion

with being disgracefully intoricated
continually
& with taking opium -

Capt French with being engaged
in disgraceful money transactions
with officers & men, I am a

Good Despot, a tyrant, hated
by all the men, dishonest
& generally corrupt - with

killing the Horses & being respon-
sible for every thing that has gone
wrong with the force &c &c

Private

A note it appears has been kept in No. 1. Gossip Row of everything that has occurred in these Barracks & Cottama kept informed accordingly with the writers own views thereon - It appears that Mr. G. is desirous of being the Commissioner's lady! eventually, & consequently all in the way must be pulled down - I was to be so abused in the papers & by letters to Cottama that I would have to resign in disgust - Capt. F. was similarly to be driven out - Walker & he being so set against one another by his carried back & forward that one or both would

have to leave, & so on -
I am now investigating into ~~how~~
C^o Donnell was drunk & unfit to
attend to his train! A fact which
appears very doubtful - & which
unfortunately for our Ottawa Cor-
respondent brings out from
two separate evidences the
fact that whiskey was bought
in without "permit" in
Master Claude's name -

I have had every reason to be
satisfied with your manner
of conducting your duties and
reported strongly in your favor
in my Confidential Report

but as the underhand state-
ments that having been going
to Ottawa are receiving more
credence than my official re-
ports, I advise you if you have
a friend at Ottawa to see if
your character has gone
with the rest, you are for-
tunately junior to Griffiths
& so not in his way, but you
may be dragged down in the attempt
to pull some one else down - thus
I hear that you were much the
worse of liquor when Sir Le
Corbie was here, & if the
Dept was informed that I

Winked at your being so
you would suffer in order that
a clap may be made at me -
Such premeditated & systematic
Villany is ahead of Machiavelli

As I have always been a friend
of yours & believe you to be a
friend of mine I think it right
to warn you - but this is
not the sort of a letter that a
Comm^d Officer should write to
one under his Command, so you
will not alone consider it quite
private but destroy it when
read - talking of destroying
I have torn up your receipt as
requested -

Ever your sincere friend
G. A. French