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April 2018

## **Letter from Indian Agent Mallet to Commissioner of Indians**

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## Letter from Indian Agent Mallet to Commissioner of Indians

### About

Office of Indian Affairs, Government Relations with Native Americans, Agency supplies, Native American Reservations

### Transcription

Department of the Interior

Office of Indian Affairs

Washington March 12, 1877

E. Mallet Esq.

U.S. Indian Agent

Tulalip Agency Wash Tery.

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, relative to "Miscellaneous Receipts" [?]. I include herewith copy of a decision of the Supreme Court, relative to cutting timber from Indian Reservations from which you will be able to determine what is lawful and what are unlawful cutting.

If your Indians are clearing the land in good faith for agricultural purposes, they have the right to dispose of the surplus wood and timber and to receive the proceeds there of. If such is not the case, the cutting is unlawful and should be stopped at once.

If the Indians are capable of making their own bargains there is no objection to their so doing and you are thereby relieved for accounting for the same.

The arrangements already made by you between the Indians and the trader are approved by this office and you are authorized to make

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such additional regulations as may be deemed  
necessary for their benefit and protection.

Very Respectfully

Signed J.Q. Smith

Commissioner

Wash, M. 329.77

**Identified Persons**

J.Q.Smith; Major Edmond Mallet

**Identified Places**

Tulalip Agency

**Recipient**

Major Edmond Mallet

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Department of the Interior  
Office of Indian Affairs  
Washington March 12, 1877

E. Mallet Esq.

U.S. Indian Agent

Tulalip Agency Wash Ter.

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> ultimo, relative to "Miscellaneous Receipts" &c. I inclose herewith, copy of a decision of the Supreme Court, relative to cutting timber from Indian Reservations from which you will be able to determine what is lawful and what are unlawful cutting.

If your Indians are clearing the land, in good faith for agricultural purposes, they have the right to dispose of the surplus wood and timber and to receive the proceeds thereof. If such is not the case, the cutting is unlawful and should be stopped at once.

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Very respectfully  
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Wash, M. 329.77