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10325 132nd Street, Edmonton,  
Sept 21st, 1916

A.G. Browning Esq,  
Deputy Attorney-General,  
Edmonton, Alta.

Dear Mr Browning,

Re Decision 'Rex vs Bloom' and Rex vs Salter.



Your letter of September 9th has been received.  
of 'Rex vs Bloom'

I have studied the above case/and have deduced therefrom that when two charges for the same offence are laid before different justices, the justice first seized of the charge has the jurisdiction to try the case.

I contend, however, that if the second justice had had the exclusive jurisdiction over this case, the decision of Mr Justice Beck must have been otherwise.

In the case of 'Rex vs Mary Salter' concerning which I wrote you on September 6th, while Magistrate Primrose was asked to sign this warrant, he had no jurisdiction to try it, the exclusive jurisdiction of all cases of women and girls in the City of Edmonton having been given to the Women's Police Court by the Honorable, the Attorney General. The right and authority of the Attorney <sup>General</sup> so to do having been unquestionably granted to him under the provisions of the North American Act.

In your letter you state that Magistrate Primrose has assured Mr Popple, and subsequently wrote you, that he would be at all times pleased to do anything in his power to carry out the wishes of the Department with respect to the trial of women, and that the Chief of the City Police tells you that, so far as possible, he also will direct the laying of Informations in such cases, before me.

This would seem to be in everyway satisfactory if, alas, one could place the slightest confidence in the sincerity of

Chief Hill. His attitude towards the Women's Court is a demonstration of an old text concerning the voice of Jacob and the hands of Esau.

That I am warranted in making this comment may be gleaned from the fact that out of the fourteen Informations against women which have been improperly diverted to the Central Police Court since July 5th, all of these, with two exceptions, have been laid by Police officers and not by the public. The "willingness" of the Chief Constable to "direct" these cases is manifest only in their mis-directing. It is true he claims to be acting under "pressure" which is an astonishing acknowledgement, or assertion, for a man in his position.

In view of these facts, and to prevent further misunderstandings, evasions, and equivocations, I would respectfully urge upon you the serious necessity of sending definite instructions concerning the jurisdiction of the Women's Court <sup>to Chief Hill</sup> and that a copy of this letter of instruction be sent to Magistrate Primrose and myself for our information and assurance.

Yours very truly,

*Emily F. Murphy.*

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