

39,760.

Ottawa, April 17, 1911.

Sir,-

A complaint has been forwarded to the Department through the Rev. J. McDougall from Chief Basil of the Bonaparte Band. The Chief says that he and his people desire to construct an irrigation ditch about seven miles long to carry three hundred inches of water from Hat Creek to the reserve, but they are afraid of the white people, and especially that they will secure all the water and leave the Indians without any. He also says that he has heard that certain whites are trying to commence a ditch on the reserve.

I have to request you to look especially into this case. You will note on page 48 of the Schedule of Indian Reserves, a copy of which has been sent you by mail, that 150 and 150 inches of water from Hat Creek respectively have been allotted to three different reserves of these Indians. The Chief does not mention to which reserve or reserves he especially refers.

If the Indians are in earnest in their intention to construct the ditch, they should be encouraged. There should be no question as to their right to the water which has been recorded for them. The ditch, however, may have to pass through private property and the works be otherwise affected.

McDonald, Esq.,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Vernon, B.C.

Please

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