

DUPLICATE

Indian Office,
Victoria, B. C.,
December 8th, 1914.

Sir:-

In obedience to the instructions contained in your letter to me of the 3rd November, No. 115,294, with reference to the dyke on Barnston Island, I proceeded on the 26th ultimo to New Westminster where I interviewed Mr. Indian Agent Byrne, and one of the dyke Commissioners Mr. Cameron.

On the following day, accompanied by the Agent and Messrs. Cameron and McFee, I visited Barnston Island and examined the Indian reserve, the dyke and the adjacent lands.

Barnston Island contains 1600 acres of which 1400 are within the dyke. It is all good land but until recently was unproductive being flooded at high tides with the exception of a few ridges.

In 1912 it was dyked, the Commissioners being Messrs. McFee, Cameron and Charnley. The contract price was 11½ cents per yard, a rate that I consider very moderate.

The dyke is on an average 7 feet high, and there is a very great margin of safety, especially as it is on tidal water. The soil is alluvial, but certainly not sandy, and from the pumping station to the reserve the dyke is used as a wagon road. There is no road on the reserve for the Indians have not required one. The dyke has now stood the freshets for two and a half winters; in 1912-13 the water was considered high, last winter was normal; there is no sign of erosion anywhere that I could see.

Included in the assessment is a main drainage ditch through the centre of the island, 22 feet wide, by on an average, 5 feet deep and rather less than 2 miles long. In addition to
the

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

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