

464,654.

Ottawa, July 16, 1914.

Sir,

A communication has been received from the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Edmonton, in which he states that the abutments of the steel bridge across the Belly River near Standoff are badly decayed and that it is desirable to replace them and to remove the bridge to a point farther west shown on the blue print plan enclosed herewith. The cost of putting in the new timber substructures, removing the old bridge to them and improving the road will be approximately \$2500.00; the Department is requested to state whether it would bear the whole or at least a good proportion of the cost.

I have to request you to be good enough to report in full on this matter; especially in the direction of the use made of the bridge by the Indians and of its usefulness to the reserve generally; also what proportion, if any, you think should be contributed towards the cost of the work.

For your information, I may say that the Department has in nearly every similar case contributed towards the construction of the bridges and roads on ^{the limits of} Indian Reserves but very seldom to a greater amount than half the cost. Under the provisions of the Indian Act money for this purpose may be taken from the Indian Funds of the band without

W. J. Dilworth, Esq.,

Indian Agent,

MACLEOD, Alta.

Encl.

Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
3 July 1914 - 18 July 1914, (R.G. 10, Volume 5525)

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