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complete our negotiations with the Government of Canada subject to the claim of the Government of British Columbia and to take up the settlement of the reversionary interest of that Government at some future time.

I trust that it is not necessary to bring to your attention the desirability of obtaining the investment of capital in irrigation propositions in the Western Provinces including the Province of British Columbia. You are aware of the vast areas of land in various parts of that Province which with irrigation would be available for fruit-growing as well as for other agricultural purposes. Permit me to say that in the interests of the people of Western Canada and of the people of British Columbia it is especially desirable that the fruit-growing industry should be developed. There is no question as to the climate or as to the soil's adaptability. The only difficulty in the way of development of these districts suitable for fruit-raising is the difficulty of obtaining water for the land. As these desirable fruit lands are usually situated in those portions of the Province where there is practically no rainfall.

You also understand that the cost of developing such an irrigation and power scheme as we propose would be quite beyond the capabilities of any one ordinary business man. The Company which I represent proposes to build an irrigation system which would render available for fruit-growing a territory consisting of fully 10,000 acres which area would include Reserves 9 and 10. The cost of such a system would unlikely be less than \$300,000, and this expenditure could not be justified in the eyes of business men unless these lands now held as Indian Reserves 9 and 10 were rendered available for settlement, and unless our

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7792, File 27164-9)

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