

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE  
Williams Lake Agency

Clinton, B.C.

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO  
NO. 1-4-5  
ALSO  
TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

*Mr. C. Spencer  
Chilco Ranch & Stone*

October 14th 1927

Re--Chilco Ranch - Stone Indian Reserve.

Sir,—

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, File No. 33/16/10084 this date regarding complaints by Mr. C. Spencer of the Chilco Ranch.

I feel it is unfortunate I was not called upon to be at a conference so important which was dealing with matters concerning my Agency. Mr. Spencer's charge that the Indians of the Stone Band, or some of them, were interfering with the irrigation ditch going through their reserve No.1 may be quite true but were they not justified? Spencer had locks on the gates and would not allow them the water they required for their lands. I have no knowledge of any portion of the reserve being washed away except that part washed away some years ago by Mr. Spencer. On June 20th last I visited Stone Reserve and found the gates from the western or northwestern end of the reserve as follows: No.1 entirely closed, No.2 open one inch, No.3 open one inch, No.4 open two inches and No.5 entirely closed, all under lock, and the Indians complaining that they had to run to Mr. Spencer each time they wished to irrigate their little garden patches or their fields. I then called at Mr. Spencer's but found that he was away at the Coast. His foreman, Mr. Drake, assured me that the Indians in future would get all the water they needed. I again advised the Indians to write or wire me at any time in the future. I got no further complaints from them.

On August 6th I again visited the reserve. I saw their crops. I saw their irrigation ditch. I received no complaints. I would suggest that in the future the Indians, at the beginning or at the proper time of the irrigation season, be allotted the amount of water they are entitled to; that their gates be set at that point and not interfered with by Mr. Spencer or his employees. As long as Mr. Spencer is allowed to open and close the Indian gates at his will there will be trouble with the Indians.



I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*E. MacLeod*  
(E. MacLeod)  
Indian Agent

W.E. Ditchburn, Esq.,  
Indian Commissioner for B.C.,  
P.O. Box 666,  
Victoria, B.C.