

30/16/10084.

October 11, 1927.

Re--Chilco Ranch - Stone Indian Reserve.

Dear Sir:-

I am sorry to inform you at a conference with Mr. Spencer, of the Chilco Ranch, last Friday at Vancouver, he complained that some of the Stone Indians had been interfering with and damaging the irrigation works; also, that they have allowed their diversion boxes from the main ditch to get out of repair and would not do anything to put them right, with the result that water was flooding the Reserve and he was not getting the amount he was entitled to under his licence, and this meant a very heavy loss to him. Mr. Spencer further stated that the Stone Indians are not now as progressive as they were some years ago on account of their drinking habits. He stated that they are continually making home brew and he could not get any assistance from either yourself or the Provincial constable of the district to keep the Indians in order.

The conference was held in order to endeavour to arrive at an understanding as to what would be a fair proportion of cost for each party to bear in connection with new works proposed by Engineers Murray and Warren, but I am sorry to say that the meeting terminated very unsatisfactorily. However, this is foreign to the matter above referred to, and in view of the serious nature of the complaints of Mr. Spencer, I beg to request that you will report at once to this Office as to how far any of the statements are correct, and if so, what action you took in the matter.

For your information I am attaching hereto a copy of a letter to Mr. Ellis written by Mr. Spencer's solicitors on the 30th August. That part referring to accounts not being paid is unimportant as these have been held in this office pending a settlement with Mr. Spencer as to what repairs this Department was entitled to share in the cost of and what ones Mr. Spencer should do at his own expense, for it was noted that some of the repairs charged for are for work on Fletcher Lake Dam in which this Department has no interest whatever, the Indians having no storage licence.

Enclosure:-

WED/HM.

E. MacLeod, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Clinton, B.C.

Your obedient servant,

W. E. Ditchburn.  
Indian Commissioner for B.C.