

February 11, 1916.

Dear Mr. Cockshutt, -

I have your favour of the 10th instant, in regard to the question of disposition of rights to bore for gas and oil on the Six Nations reserve. In reply I would say that this question was taken up by the Department of Justice some little time ago, which Department advised that disposition of oil or gas on the Six Nations reserve could only be made after surrender thereof by the Indians under and in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Act.

I may say that an agreement was entered into by the Six Nations Indians some years ago, with a Mr. Merrill, granting rights to prospect for oil on the reserve, which agreement was subsequently transferred to the North Western Gas Company, but it has been held by the Department of Justice that Mr. Merrill acquired no interest which he could convey to this Company, and the rights of the parties who entered into agreement with the Indians are not now recognized by the Department.

The

W. F. Cockshutt, Esq., M.P.,

House of Commons,

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Indian Affairs, Letterbook,
7 February 1916 - 21 February 1916, (R.G. 10, Volume 5611)

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