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The timber lands acquired for the use of the Indians generally have not been properly conserved, and after a few years they have been almost completely denuded of timber, and become practically valueless.

It is very questionable whether the policy of supplying the Indians with wooded-land should be continued, and at present, as stated, the Department is not in a position to purchase.

Should it be decided later to acquire the additional land offered by Mr. Sproule you will be notified.

As long as the Indians are impressed with the belief that the Department will supply their wants in respect of timber lands they will neither make an effort to conserve what they have, nor take steps to provide for their future wants.

yours very truly,

**J. D. McLEAN**

Assistant Deputy Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs.

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