

share of the cost in construction of the storage dam to conserve the water that now goes to waste in the springtime from the melting snows. That phase of the question I tried to impress on them in the talk I had with them, and I hope it will help to prepare them for some proposal to that end.

In discussing the matter with the promoters of the scheme I gave them to understand that they would require to have something concrete to lay before the Indian Department before they could expect to have the Department committed to it. Engineers are now at work getting together the necessary data upon which to base the cost of construction, and until they ascertain what that cost will be, they cannot tell what will be the cost per acre to be borne by all the lands included. A preliminary step required by the Water Act is the signing of a petition on the part of the owners of all the land to be included, but the signing of that petition does not carry with it any obligation to go through with it or be held responsible for payment of the pro rata levy per acre for cost of construction of the storage dam.

I would be pleased to learn the wishes of the Indian Department, both with reference to the advisability of making application for water record on the spring and that of having the Indian lands of the Westbank reserve included in the Irrigation Corporation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

A. McGraw

Inspector of Indian Agencies

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