

COPY OF MR. IRWIN'S Letter of July 17th. /1942.

Granbrook, B.C.  
July 17th. 1942.

Major D.M. MacKay, Indian Commissioner for B.C.,  
P.O.Box. 70. Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

On Indian Johnny George's farm, on Nicks Island, Lower Kootenay Reserve, there is an acreage of better than 50 acres under crop, farmed by the Poole Construction Co., on a half share basis, in addition to the 66 acres on Indian Reserve #4. This acreage has been broken and brought under cultivation without any expense to the Department and the crop is indeed very fine. If favoured with good harvest weather the yield should be well above average.

Before being broken, this land produced a certain amount of hay which was put up each year by Indian Johnny George, and after feeding his stock throughout the Winter, any balance on hand was disposed of. When sales were made the proceeds were not shared with other member of the band. The crop now being produced should be much more valuable than a hay crop, and yet if shared with the other Indians, would be infinitely less profitable to Johnny George. After all, does it not really belong to him, when produced on his own allotment, or must it be shared with the others? I am sure he could be persuaded to use the money to improve the buildings on his farm, under my personal supervision. Will you kindly advise in the matter.

and oblige,

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Irwin.  
Indian Agent.