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7/4099.

Cranbrook, B.C.  
January 29th 1936.

Dear Sir:-

As directed in the Department letter of December 17th 1935 file No. 36155-6-3., I beg to submit herewith a report concerning the application of Peter Charles Bruner to the International Joint Commission for the approval of a reclamation project on the West bank of the Kootenay River, involving the Lower Kootenay Indian Reserve No.4.

The Acting Chief, Council of the Band and myself made a thorough survey of the Lower Kootenay Reserves on the 25th and 26th instant. Reserve No. 4 comprises 217 acres, of which approximately 25 acres consists of Poplar and brush along the River bank, the remainder is open meadow, this meadow is cut by the Indians and produces about 125 tons of wild hay yearly and is required for winter feed for their stock. Reserves No.1, 1A, and 1B produce very little hay, and if deprived of No.4 Reserve the Indians would not have sufficient for their needs. The only improvements of the Reserve is a small log cabin valued at \$30.00.

The following day the 27th instant a meeting of the Band was held in which seventeen voting members out of a total voting strength of eighteen were present. The matter was discussed at great length and a unanimous vote was recorded against the sale or lease of the Lower Kootenay Indian Reserve No.4. The Indians however, requested me to submit as an alternative, a proposition for the exchange of the Reserve for seventy acres of reclaimed Reserve land upon two conditions, firstly, that Dr. Bruner guarantee the dykes or compensate the Indians for any loss of crops which may be caused by the breaking of the dykes, and secondly that the seventy acres exchanged be plowed ready for the Indians to seed, that is for the first season only. Seventeen members voted in favor of this proposition and one against.

In my opinion this proposition would be far more advantageous to the Indians than a lease or sale, excellent results have been obtained from the land under dyke by the Creston Reclamation Co., last year some of the reclaimed land produced fifty bushels of wheat to the acre and averaged thirty five bushels. It will also be excellent for hay and root crops after the first or second year of cultivation. Seventy acres of reclaimed land would therefore

The Secretary,  
Department of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ont.

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