

30154-45 R

NICOLA PINE MILLS LIMITED

"THE SPRUCE PEOPLE"

MANUFACTURERS

ENGELMANN WHITE SPRUCE

MERRITT, B.C.

October 24th 1928.

E.H. HOTCHKISS, PRESIDENT.
G.H. BRAMAN, TREASURER.
H.C. MEEKER, GENERAL MANAGER.

CAPACITY
50,000,000



Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Gentlemen:

Replying your letter No. 30154-45 under date of October 5th written by Mr. J. D. McLean, owing to our inability to operate Pondsosa Pine at a profit we discontinued all Pine cutting in the year 1925 and there still remains on the Coldwater Reserve No. 1 some additional timber that we hope later on we may be able to cut. There are indications that the lumber market is stabilizing at higher levels permitting Pine to again be operated with some chance of profit. With this thought in mind I would request that our rights to cut the timber on the Coldwater Indian Reserve not be cancelled.

In regard to the disposal of slash resulting from cutting on the Indian Reserves. The Dominion and Provincial Forest Officers have for a great many years been studying a practical way in which this menace in regard to slash could be best handled, broadcast burning has resulted in the destruction of the young re-growth. Piling of brush entails an expense that the industry has been unable to carry. As a practical compromise tops and branches have been lopped so that they will lie close to the ground and as Pine slash kept on the ground or in a damp condition rapidly decays this has been found the most beneficial way of meeting this problem. Likewise the slash handled in this way affords a protection to the young seedlings and it is along these lines that the logging operations have been conducted by ourselves on the Indian Reserve.

I am surprised if any reports have been rendered showing that this slash is creating a fire menace. This whole district is being properly patrolled and the number of fires for the past few years reduced to a minimum. Admittedly