

almost nothing, as a large expenditure would be necessary before any return could be got from it. To sell this portion (if the Indians would consent) would, of course, considerably increase the annuity, but it would make it necessary to reduce the size of the farms on the Reserve far too much.

At present there is no more land on this Reserve than might be used to advantage by the Indians on it. The lots are quite small enough for moderate sized farms, and I think it would be unwise to divide them up. Except to the aged & infirm, widows with small children &c. the annuity is really of little consequence. I often think that those who are able to work, would, in many cases, be better without it. They trust too much to it, and do not exert themselves to obtain money from other sources.

I have thought of some such scheme as the following - Let a competent Engineer be employed to take levels so as to show where leading ditches would be necessary through the whole Reserve. Let such ditches be opened, at an expense of probably from \$6,000. to \$8,000. I think, at any rate, the latter named sum would be sufficient to construct main ditches, so that all the lands on the Reserve might be drained into them.

Then suppose - say \$100. from the share Capital of each individual, was set apart for clearing up and improving the different farms - the work for the most part to be done by the Indians themselves, under competent supervision. This would

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