

sideration when I was endeavouring to try to arrange an exchange of that cut-off in that reserve. The Royal Commission on Indian Affairs recommended the cutting off of over 14,000 acres. Included in that 14,000 acres there are about 2,600 acres of that large flat that you see from Penticton. The Penticton Board of Trade made a suggestion four years ago that the cut-off should be amended by running the line further south to a stream called Shingle Creek, and taking in the whole of that flat up there, leaving the rest of the cut-off to the Indians for pasturage and range for their cattle. The matter was taken up with the Minister of Lands, the Hon. Mr. Pattullo, and he put his engineers on that land to see if it was possible to bring water in there from Trout Creek, the same as is done at the Dominion Experimental Farm, which is somewhat further north. So far as the exchange was concerned, I was perfectly willing to have that exchange made instead of the original 14,000 acres cut-off first recommended by the Commission. Mr. Cleveland, who has control of water rights, reported that it was not economically feasible to put water on that land for irrigation purposes, and consequently it was dropped.

Q. That is the bench land?—A. That is the bench land. A great many people see that up there and they seem to think it is lying there and the Indians are not doing anything with it.

Q. What about down in the flat, along the river? Have they any orchards in there the same as the rest of the district?—A. Oh, yes, if you walk right down to the village you will see that the Indians have some very good orchards down there right back of Penticton. Down along the river bottom it is grass land for their cattle. I can truthfully say that so far as the Penticton Indians are concerned they are utilizing their land to the fullest extent possible.

Q. In the flat?—A. In the flat.

*By Hon. Mr. McLennan:*

Q. Where they can get water they are utilizing it?—A. Yes; they must have the water.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. What about their orchards being a menace to the adjoining orchards; that was mentioned yesterday?—A. I do not think there is very much in that. This Department has an officer known as the Inspector of Indian Orchards, whose duty it is to go around to all—

Q. You mean your Department has?—A. In our Department.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Is that Wilson?—A. No, Wilson is dead; his name is Anderson.

Q. Wilson was for a while?—A. Yes, he was our officer. He goes around and he teaches the Indians how to spray their trees. We supply them with spray pumps, show them how to prune trees, and to keep their orchards generally in much better condition.

Q. But there has been a great deal of complaint on that ground for many years back?—A. Yes.

Q. I presume you are getting it into much better shape now, but there was complaint years ago?—A. We have had that policy in existence for the last twenty years.

Q. I know you have, but without very much success?—A. And it is bringing out good results.

*By Hon. Mr. Green:*

Q. Were not the complaints largely from isolated fruit trees, and not so much from orchards from which they expected to make money?—A. Individual