

79,924.

Ottawa, July 17, 1911.

Sir,-

An application has been submitted to this Department from Mr. Angus McKinnon, Duncans, B.C., for permission to dredge one or more of the channels of the Cowichan River in the Cowichan Indian reserve for the purpose of improving a tract of land owned by him. The intention is also to utilize the gravel which will be excavated; in fact this may be the principal inducement for the undertaking.

It is represented that the river is not navigable; the <sup>of the river</sup> bed in the Indian reserve is therefore under the control of this Department.

I have to request you to be good enough to see Mr. McKinnon and ascertain exactly what is the extent of the privilege desired, and then interview the Indians and ascertain on what terms they are willing to allow the work to proceed and to surrender the gravel to be taken away.

Please look carefully into the matter yourself and report in full. Under ordinary circumstances <sup>proposed</sup> the dredging should benefit the adjacent lands. It may however have the effect of washing away the banks at some points, also the gravel bed shown <sup>on</sup> a blue print plan filed with the application may be a valuable asset for which the Indians should receive some compensation. Kindly attend to this matter as soon as you can.

W. R. Robertson, Esq.,

Indian Agent,  
Duncans, B.C.

Your obedient servant,

Sgt. W. D. McLean  
Asst. Deputy & Secretary