

CEW/GG



2049-14

January 15, 1936.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 13th inst. regarding the application of Dr. Peter Charles Bruner to the International Joint Commission for the approval of the reclamation of 3440 acres of flooded lands on the west bank of the Kootenay river north of the old reclamation farm, we have been in close touch with all reclamation on Kootenay river, on both sides of the border, in connection with the International problems which have arisen.

As you know the Department of Indian Affairs have entered into an agreement with the Creston Reclamation Co. in respect to Indian Reserve land within reclaimed lands on the Creston Reclamation project on the east side of the Kootenay river near Creston, B.C. and although this project is relatively new I would suggest you ascertain how successful the project has been and what benefits the Indians concerned are obtaining. The same condition is likely to exist should Indian Reserves be included in the Bruner project.

There is no doubt that with the development of these reclaimed areas the hay cutting privileges of the Kootenay Flats' Indians is gradually diminishing. However, if the Indian Reserves are not included in the reclaimed lands they are liable to greater flooding each year as further reclamation is developed. I would explain that as the Kootenay Flats have been reclaimed the pondage for high water has been reduced as well as the channel capacity of the Kootenay river. This being so, for a given discharge in the river the stage must necessarily be higher.

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RG 10, C-II-2, vol. 11043
File/dossier 30/5

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