

Ottawa April 28th 1909

Sir,-

In reply to your telegram of the 27th inst., I beg to inform you that the Southern Alberta Land Company, Ltd., has objected to pay \$20.00 per acre for the right of way required for their irrigation canal through the Blackfoot Indian Reserve. Exception is even taken to your valuation of \$15.00 per acre as being too high.

This Irrigation Company has the same power under the provisions of the Irrigation Act, that a Railway Company has and can therefore proceed to obtain the Right of way under Section 46 of the Indian Act. That is to say, a surrender or consent of the Indians is not required. I may explain, however, that the Department has always considered it advisable to consult the Indians and obtain their views as to values etc. Kindly bring the matter again before them and arrive at a valuation that may be considered to be reasonable and such that the Department may demand and insist on payment from the Irrigation Co.

An Order in Council has been applied for and on its receipt the Irrigation Company is to deposit with this Department a sum on account of the Right of way of not less than \$3000.00 pending final adjustment of the sum to be paid.

On the receipt of the said sum you will be notified. The Contractors may then proceed with

J.H. Gooderham, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Gleichen, Alta.

Dept. of Indian & Northern Affairs, Letterbook,  
28 April 1909 - 11 May 1909, (R.G. 10, Volume 5238)

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