

therefore be of far greater value to the Indians than the 217 acres of Reserve in its present wild state. I wish to suggest the Department give this matter serious consideration and if approved, submit the proposition to Peter Charles Bruner.

With reference to the possible loss of hay cutting rights on the land outside this Reserve and included in the project, I wish to advise the Indians informed me they do not cut hay on the portion of the Kootenay Flats included in the Bruner project, the hay is cut by white settlers of the district.

I wrote to Mr. Webb of the Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau, Vancouver, B.C., for information in connection with the possible increase in flooding the proposed dyke would have on the Reserves outside of the project. I beg to quote herewith his reply, in part:

" 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.

I trust this report is satisfactory and conveys to the Department the information desired.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Howe

Robert Howe
Acting Indian Agent

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