

(C O P Y)

REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1937, ON KOOTENAY AGENCY.

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Following the election of a Chief a vote was taken concerning the attitude of the Band towards Dr. Bruner's reclamation scheme, a proposition well known to the Department. The vote was completely unanimous in favour of accepting from Dr. Bruner seventy out of two hundred and seventeen acres to be broken, properly cultivated and left ready for the seed. The proposition is quite acceptable to Dr. Bruner in so far as about fifty-five acres is concerned. The balance, however, is covered with heavy timber and brush which would cost \$1000. to remove. If the seventy acres could be brought under cultivation and seeded to alfalfa after taking off a second crop of wheat a great deal of expense such as seeding, threshing and cultivation would be done away with and the crop returns over a number of years would probably be more profitable. Seventy acres of alfalfa in two one season crops should yield at least two tons per acre, one ton each cut and the price is seldom less than \$10. per ton in the stack. A gross total of \$1400. The cost of labour in connection with putting up the hay should, in my opinion, be paid to the able bodied Indians who would do the work and the balance divided equally among all members of the Band. Provided a good catch could be obtained the returns would be much in advance of the figures quoted, which in themselves are doubtless more than could be realized from any crop of wild hay which might be put up on the reserve.

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Indian Agent.

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