

diversion construction calls for one thousand second feet of water, the amount of an appropriation filed in behalf of the Yakima Indian by U. S. Indian Agent, Jay Lynch, in 1893.

It is a matter of record that we were actually using 269 second feet of water for irrigation purposes and that this amount was cut down by the U. S. R. S. to 147 S. F. without the consent or consultation of government engineers representing the Indians or the Indian Department. I wish to call attention to the fact that at the same time the Sunnyside Canal, owned by a private company, had an appropriation of 1050 S. F. of water and were diverting 625 S. F. and their allowance instead of being cut down was raised to 650 S. F. of water.

According to the report of the U. S. R. S. at the time our water was cut down, the Sunnyside Canal had 34,000 acres under water and the reservation 17,000 acres under irrigation. It is also very plain for anyone connected with the reservation to see and to find plenty of proof that the U. S. R. S. used many unfair means in an attempt to get the Indians to sign up for a water right under an Act of Congress known as the "Jones Bill." This bill provides for the sale of 60 acres of an Indian's allotment to purchase a water right for the remaining 20 acres, practically placing a mortgage on 60 acres of each Indian's allotment, coming under what is known as the "Wapato Project." As a result of the conditions as they exist today the development of our raw lands have been greatly hindered and delayed and our land values greatly decreased.

For several years past the Indians have suffered great loss of crops because our water was being directed into other canals outside of our reservation and we could not get water for our burning crops during the months of July and August, a time when the second and third crops of alfalfa need to be watered more than any other time during the year.

Conditions as they exist are well worth national consideration, as the matter affects thousands of people and involves at least two million dollars and possibly more. A good Congressional investigation would bring many surprising facts to light. Mr. Editor, if you know a Senator or Congressman who would give this letter consideration I would ask that he consult the Yakima files on record at the Indian Department at Washington, D. C., and the Milk River Supreme Court decision No. 158, October Term, 1907. I feel satisfied he would find the facts of this letter well grounded and that his own idea of what is right and just will cause him to give us his assistance to clear up the matter.

Respectfully yours,

R. D. HOLT.

North Yakima, Wash.,

August 5th, 1912.