

IN REPLY ADDRESS THE SUPERINTENDENT
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ROOM 145 307

5-1142

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LA 52710-27

UNITED STATES INDIAN FIELD SERVICE

SACRAMENTO INDIAN AGENCY
SACRAMENTO-CALIFORNIA

January 16, 1928

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

Referring to yours of November 29, 1927 pertaining to purchase of land from Louis Alpers for use of homeless Indians of California.

In reply to the second paragraph thereof, kindly be advised that after a thorough personal investigation on the ground and inquiry of persons supposed to be entirely familiar with conditions and mining operations thereon for many years, some of them being Indians residing on the land, it is found that operations have not been extensive; that as a matter of fact the products of the mine have been consumed locally through deliveries made at the mine to the purchaser. It is learned that two drifts were run some years ago in the direction of and into the land embraced in the purposed purchase at considerable depth, from the surface thereof; that these operations, as affects the land, here under consideration, were discontinued and wholly abandoned because of too much water to warrant mining the low grade of coal found there; that further operations were turned in the opposite direction into the higher land where there was less water and a somewhat better grade of coal. It is established, however, that none of the coal taken from the land is of high, or even paying, grade and that the operators have been playing a losing game to such an extent that only recently all mining operations ceased, machinery removed, and the mine wholly abandoned. This was verified by two recent visits personally made by the writer on the ground, one on Sunday, December 16, 1927 and the other on Sunday, January 8, 1928.

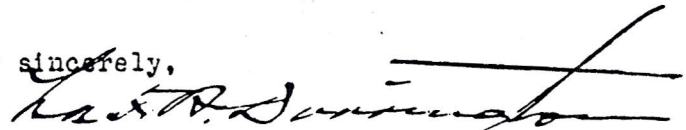
From the above and foregoing it seems reasonable to conclude that there has been nothing, in the way of mining, nor is there any probabilities of mining operations thereon under the mining agreement affecting the said land that could be objectionable or in any manner interfere with the use and occupancy of the said land by the Indians; that, as a matter of fact, the purchase of the land will not in any way change their status of sixty (60) years or more other than to quiet the title in the United States and give the Indians in question peaceful possession of their home and that of their forefathers for several generations back.

The attached letter from the Title Insurance and Guaranty Company of San Francisco, under date of January 12, 1926 disposes of the tax situation. However, should the Office desire it, further evidence of payment of the taxes will be demanded and procured before recordation of the deed, although the Title Insurance policy will protect us in that regard.

It now appears that all requirements of the Comptroller General and the Office have been met and the next step will be the recordation of the deed (which is in your possession) as soon as sent here for that purpose to be followed by the issuance of the policy of Title Insurance and settled in regular order after final approval of transactions in accordance with your letter of November 29, 1927.

This agency awaits your further permission in the premises.

Very sincerely,



L. A. Dorrington,
Superintendent.

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Incls.

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