

Canada - Emigration & immigration May 18, 1902

Hill to John S. Kennedy

Re mineral rights on timber lands sold to Weyerhaeuser; advantages for us in this, since otherwise we must pay taxes, assume risk of the many fires of campers, etc, prevent timber stealing, &c Well-to-do Americans, mainly from Iowa, are going into Canada NorthWest attracted by good farm lands at \$5 to \$8 an acre which sell for \$20 to \$30 in U.S. "The time has come when the Public Domain must be carefully saved for homes for the increasing population of the country. In western Dakotas, Montana, and Washington many millions of acres can be successfully irrigated

Largest area for cheap irrigation in U.S. is south of Sweet Grass Hill and in Milk Riv. Valley on our line in northern Montana. At an expense of \$5 or \$6 an acre for 8 to 10 yrs. 4 or 5 million acres can be put under a full supply of water, which can be so regulated as to insure a heavy crop every yr. Land is of unusual fertility. Question of irrigation by Gen Govt. is being favorably rec'd in Cong. These lands now bring no revenue & are occupied by cattlemen as ranges. With irrigation would be rapidly settled at from \$10 to \$20 an acre, so that Govt. would more than double its investment & at some time prevent our good farmers from leaving own country.

JJH LetterBook, 3/13/99 - 5/30/02, p. 479