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Albany, N.Y. December 18th, 1913.

Mr. Edmund O. Luthy,
Cincinnati,
Ex 232. Ohio.

Dear Mr. Luthy,

I have your letter of the fourth inst., also your letter of the sixth inst.

Inclosed find a copy of a letter I received from Mr. McKim. This letter shows that Mr. Harris had made no record of any conveyance or rights regarding the dam or road which ran over his property. As the town, through its Road Commissioners are keeping this road in condition, it is possible that some of the Road Commissioner's records would show that this property had been made a public highway.

I called on Mr. McKim and he states that Mr. Ferris, who I believe is a Civil Engineer, has called in person at Mr. McKim's office and he is of the opinion that Mr. Ferris wished to adjust this matter amicably for all concerned. He also thinks that Mr. Newton or Mr. Ferris will write us regarding the matter, in the near future. Mr. McKim said he gave Mr. Ferris a copy of the sketch or plans for the dam which he proposes. This is of concrete, and in his opinion cannot be laid until Spring.

With the idea in mind that Mr. Newton has been irritated by something that has been said, I am of the opinion that it would be well to wait a few days before approaching him on the subject. I am waiting daily some information from Mr. Wickes regarding the matter.

At the beginning of this matter I felt that Mr. Newton might have had a motive in his action, it being possible that he desired to control the impoundment of the waters of this Lake from a legal point, and possible for the purpose of forming a precedent in such a matter.

At the last election in this State, an amendment was voted on by the citizens which referred to the flooding of the State lands, and during the last three or four years there has been much agitation as to controlling the waste waters in this state. Some favor private ownership while others prefer State ownership.

With these ideas in mind, I cannot help but think that there might be some plan under way to bring about some result along some of these lines, especially as Mr. Newton is connected with the Ti Pulp Mills, whom I imagine have been studying the water power situation for years. Others seem to think that this land was purchased simply for the wood which is on it, and it is possible that the water power is so small as to be valueless.

As soon as we ascertain the facts, I believe we should be prepared to buy the property or re-build the dam, or see if we have legal rights in the matter. I believe that if the water of the Lake were to be left as it is now it would eventually exterminate the pickeral because there would be no spawning grounds. If this were so it might be possible that trout would thrive in our Lake. However I would prefer the old level with the pickeral.

At this writing I do not feel in a position to answer the questions which you ask in your letter of December sixth. I think it however, a good scheme to send this letter to all the property owners on the Lake, because it will awaken their interest. I have had communications from Mr. Alden, Mr. Pease and Mr. Wickes regarding this matter, but I have not written the others, and presume you are taking up this matter of publicity. I will endeavor to keep you posted on whatever happens.

Truly yours,

WSL:WAK.

P.S. Inclosed find check for one dollar (\$1.00) in payment of dues.