

January 29th, 1912.

Mr. Otho E. Ridgely,
1007 N. Calvert Street.

Dear Sir:-

The agreement of December 29th, 1911, wherein you agreed to sell your land adjacent to the Gunpowder River for \$300. per acre, was submitted to the Water Board at its meeting on January 25th. After a full discussion of the matter, the Water Board decided they would not be justified in paying you \$300. for approximately 540 acres of land when only 81 acres of this land would be submerged even if at some time in the future a high dam were built to elevation 237. In as much as the Board has decided to build a dam to an elevation less than 192 feet above tide, there would not be over four or five acres of this land submerged. You can, therefore, readily see that only a small part of your land is required for reservoir purposes.

The only boject of acquiring the land other than that actually flooded would be the protection of the water supply and the Water Board does not feal that they can afford to pay anywhere near \$300. per acre for land whose only use will be the protection of the water supply

The Water Board has investigated the prices at which most of the land which it now owns adjacent to Loch Raven was purchased and finds that these lands lying nearest to your property were bought at prices from \$43 to \$57.50 per acre. These tracts lying nearest to your property are those of

R. Gilmor	173 acres	@	\$43.40	per acre
J. L. Hoffman, et al.	194 "	@	43.00	" "
C. H. Bayland	87 "	@	57.50	" "
C. Gilmor	63 "	@	50.00	" "

We would be glad to purchase your property at a reasonable figure, but in view of the prices above quoted, any figure approaching \$300. per acre would not be considered.

Yours very truly,

EARA B. WHITMAN,

President Water Board.

MSA 905269-3-1-0014