

Letter from Charles Broadwater to Martin Maginnis, December 6, 1881

*Fort Assinniboine, M. T.
Dec. 6 1881*

Dear Major:

By this mail I send you a map of the Reservation showing that portion in which I am more particularly interested. In the event of any change in the Reservation being made I would like the Western line made to conform to the line which I have drawn in Blk Ink. . . . However I have given the whole matter much thought and have talked with a good many about it. The fact is the Valleys of the Bear Paw and the Little Rocky Mountains and all of the country lying between the Mo. River and Milk River is the very Garden Spot of M.T. not excepting Judith or the Yellowstone. On one point it excels them both in being well watered. I have made two trips across the county since I saw you and the more I see it the more favorably I am impressed. Added to this I do not think there is a question about there being good mines in the Bear [Paws]. I have seen some fine specimens of ore from there.

If in the new program of Indian Reservations the Bear Paw should be given the Indians

it is only a question of time when there would have to be another Treaty with the Tribe, as the Miners will have it and they cannot be kept off of it. My idea is to throw open to settlement all the country between the Mo. and Milk Rivers as far west as the Coal Banks or Marias (Mouth). . . .

I do hope you will make an effort to accomplish this matter this winter. It would materially help me in my business by a large increase in my citizen trade & would be a large Feather in your cap with the people of Northern M. T. This and an additional appropriation of \$12 M or \$15 M to complete the Post and build an additional sett of Barracks making it a 12 Co Post is all I intend to bother you with this winter. Both I must have or damned if I dont go back on you next election. . . .

*Yours Truly
C. A. Broadwater*

Source: *Martin Maginnis Papers, 1864–1912. Manuscript Collection 50* [box 1 folder 25]. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 66.