

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

STIKINE AGENCY

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MEETING WITH THE TAHLTAN BAND OR TRIBE OF INDIANS AT
TELEGRAPH CREEK, JUNE 7th, 1915.

PACKER TOMMY is sworn to act as Interpreter.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL explains to the assembled Indians the scope and powers of the Commission, and

MR. G. D. COX on the request of Charlie Squash, the Chief, addresses the Commission as follows:

As far as the land question is concerned, it is something now to these Indians - they are totally ignorant as to what your object is. It is altogether different here - that is, the conditions are different here to other places around the Coast where you give them agricultural land. Of course this country is not suitable for that and they have had no chance of deciding on any particular part of the country that would be suitable for them in time to come for farming purposes and consequently that makes it hard for these Indians to deal with that matter. What these Indians want is to have your object for coming here thoroughly explained to them.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Well I have done that - we are here to set apart certain lands which will be Indian Reserves, and if you can point out these places on the map we shall take into consideration these places before making our final report.

MR. G. D. COX: These Indians have not decided what would be good for them. In regard to the fishing and hunting reserves it is all very well at the present time because they make their living that way, but we hope things will change in this country and we hope that the Indians will also change, and what would probably be suitable for the Indians now, might not be suitable for them in years to come should there be a large influx of white settlers in this part of the country. We are in hopes that the Indians will advance.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: As you are speaking for the Chief, supposing now for a moment these changes you refer to take place, what piece of land would you wish to have for the Indians.

A. I could not say. I could not decide what would be suitable for them.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Leaving this question of land requirements alone, could you tell us anything in regard to their fisheries or their general requirements?

A. As far as the fisheries are concerned they have a fishing Reserve on the Tahltan where they put up a good lot of fish and also another place on Salmon Creek.

Q. Is it a reserve?

A. No, the old people go there to fish and they fish there very late there in the fall. In regard to this fishery, it would be a good thing to make a reserve there for them. They also put nets in the river here but they don't depend on that very much, and with the exception of the two places that I have just named, I don't know of any other places that would be suitable for them.

Q. Could you show us where Salmon Creek is on the map?

A. (Map is here produced and the location is pointed out)

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: In regard to the land requirements for these Indians, how long do you think it will take them to make up their minds as to what land they will require?

A. It will take some time. They will have to get together and talk about it. There are certain Indians here who have hunting grounds around the country who have never been very far away and they don't know very much about it.

Q. We will have to leave that matter stand for a little while. The Commission has had a great deal to do and have been traveling over territory about half the size of Europe and we can't send instructions to every Band of Indians - the Indians are supposed to know their own territory and we find invariably that the Indians know their own territory and this is the only case where we have found that the Indians know little or nothing about the country surrounding them.

CHIEF CHARLIE SQUASH IS HEREUPON CALLED AND SWORN.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: You are the Chief of the Tahltan Band?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people live in that Band, men, women and children?

A. 217.

Q. How do they make their living principally?

A. We live on meat.

Q. That is, you get the meat from hunting?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you depend to any extent on fishing at all?

A. No - only a little.

Q. Do they grow any vegetables, such as roots or potatoes?

A. No.

Q. Do you do any work for white people?

A. Yes.

Q. You act as guides for hunters?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you do any packing?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you make considerable money that way through acting as guides and, going out with pack-trains?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you go out with prospectors as guides?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know that you have two reserves?

A. Yes.

Q. One is called Tahltan on the Stikine River at the junction of the two rivers?

A. Yes.

Q. And it contains 375 acres?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, have you houses there?

A. Yes.

Q. About how many families have their homes there?

A. Not many people live there.

NO PAGE 4 (Four.)

Q. How many families live there?

A. Four families and four houses.

Q. Were the houses built by the Indians themselves?

A. Yes.

Q. How long ago?

A. 17 years ago.

Q. And that land is Government land is it?

A. No, we bought that land too.

Q. So that there are three places you own - Dry-town, this west end and up the creek?

A. Yes.

Q. How many people live up the creek?

A. Four families and four houses.

Q. And they own that land too?

A. Yes.

Q. And they bought that land and own that land?

A. Yes.

Q. Apart from these places around here, are there any other places where Indians from this Band have their homes?

A. There are nine families up the Creek and they have their houses there.

Q. Do they own that land up there?

A. No, they just put up their houses there and they don't own it.

Q. How much land would they occupy there or how much would you require there; because, as you know, some day a lot of white men may come in there and buy all that land up and it would be taken away from you - are any of the houses up the creek on Hudson's Bay land?

A. It belongs to the Government?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Are you sure it does not belong to the Hudson Bay Company?

A. The Hudson Bay Company's land is beyond where our houses are.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: How much land would you require there?

INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: There is only about 10 acres there.

Q. (To Witness) Is there any other places where Indians live?

Q. And I suppose these three places that you own you pay taxes on this land every year, do you?

A. Yes, every year.

Q. Would you rather have them made into Indian reserve, or would you sooner leave them the way they are?

A. We would rather leave them the way they are and pay taxes.

Q. Have you any places where you go to fish besides Tahltan?

A. There are lots of places we know.

Q. You have certain places where you go to fish?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, you want a piece of land there, don't you?

A. We can't stand it.

Q. Why?

A. Because there is nothing grows there, and because we only go to catch the fish and come away again.

Q. Do you know of any fishing places at the mouths of creeks?

A. Yes.

Q. Are there any places where you would want land there?

A. We have one place that we have.

Q. Is there any other good place where you go to fish like Tahltan?

A. There is another place at Clearwater, Salmon Creek, Nahlin, Shakes Creek and Saloon.

Q. Would you like to have some land at these different places so that you could always go up there to catch the fish?

WITNESS: Do you mean to stop us from fishing?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: No, not at all, but if you have no land reserved there for you some day a white man may come along and take up that land and prevent you from going there to catch fish.

A. I am glad to hear it that lots of white people may come into this country and where the salmon creeks are all the people can come and help themselves together; white people or anyone else. That is what I want, I don't want to hear about a reserve business - it is all right for salmon.

Q. That is exactly what I mean I don't mean that you would have to go there and stay there all the time - you could go there and

fish and after you had caught enough you could go and leave it.

A. I don't want too many reserves all over the country.

Q. I see what you mean, you mean you don't want to corral all the fishing places all over the country.

A. I don't make any difference if we did hatch a lot of salmon, white people could go there and help themselves.

Q. We don't want the white men to stop the Indians - we want to fix it for the Indians so that the white men won't stop the Indians from fishing at these points.

A. This fishing business - if white men or prospectors come up from down below if there is no place but Indian reserves what is he going to do?

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Well, he will go and fish there if the Indians will let him. Don't you want to have the right to fish at these points you name - you don't want to be stopped is that not what you mean?

A. We don't want any white people to come and stop us.

Q. Are there any other places you want for fishing?

A. I don't know.

Q. Well, if there is, you can point them out to your Indian Agent, Mr. Simpson, and when he comes down to Victoria, he will be able to point them out to us on the map. Now, do you want any hay land?

A. No.

Q. There is one Indian here who has some pack horses and he wants some feed for these horses and if you know of any hay meadow you can get we will do what we can for you. You see the Agent about these hay meadows and he will mark them on the map so that when he comes to Victoria he will be able to tell us all about it.

THE CHIEF: Is there any hay meadow close to Telegraph Creek?

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: I don't know - you know where the hay meadows are and you can point them out to your Agent. If any reserves are given to you it won't affect your freedom at all and you can go around the country just as you are doing now.

THE CHIEF: I am glad to hear you say that.

NOTES by Mr. Commissioner McKenna at Telegraph Creek, June 7th
1915.

Q. What about your schools?

A. We have practically none, our children learn nothing.

Q. Have you not a fine school right here at Telegraph Creek?

A. Yes, we have a fine school here.

Q. You are satisfied with the school here?

A. Yes, this is a good school and the teacher is a fine young
man - he teaches our children well and treats them well.

Q. How many Indian children attend this school?

A. I think about 10.

Q. Have you any other children who could attend this school
but don't?

A. No, the children of all the families that live in this
vicinity attend this school.

Q. Then what did you mean by saying that you had practically
no schools and your children were not learning anything?

A. I spoke then of the Tahltan Reserve where I live.

Q. Is there no school there?

A. No.

Q. I have been told that there is a school house and a school
teacher there.

A. Yes, but the school is not run steadily and the children
learn nothing.

Q. Is that school open now?

A. No.

Q. How long since it has been open?

A. About 5 months.

Q. And how long was it open before that?

A. Its only open once in a while - it is not kept open regularly.

Q. How many children have you at Tahltan of school age?

A. About 15.

Q. How long is it since the school was started there?

A. Before I can remember.

Q. Who was the first teacher?

A. Mr. Pargrade.

Q. The next?

A. Mr. Thornanby.

Q. The next?

A. His son, the present teacher, Fred Thornanby.

Q. Was the school ever kept regularly open within your memory?

A. No.

Q. Is it a church school?

A. Yes.

Q. Is the teacher a clergyman?

A. I don't know.

Q. Have you any missionary or clergyman who holds service for you here or at Tahltan?

A. At Tahltan we used to have services but lately we have had none. What I want the Government to provide is a good school for the children at Tahltan.

Q. Would you prefer having a boarding school for all the Indians of this district instead of day schools?

A. No.

Q. Then what you want at Tahltan is a school as good as the school here (Telegraph Creek)?

A. Yes.

Q. What about medical attendance?

A. When a doctor is wanted they have to pay him.

Q. What doctor do you get?

A. Dr. Hughes of the hospital here. (Telegraph Creek).

Q. Is every Indian able to pay for medical attendance when required?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you want no change as to that?

A. No.

Q. I suppose Indian cases are taken to the hospital the same as white cases?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have no complaint to make as to the charges or the treatment you receive there?

A. No.

In the evening the Commissioners went over the ground which the Indians desired for a reserve close to the town of Telegraph Creek with Indian Joe Coburn. They found two houses already built there and one in the course of erection and were informed that two more were to be erected shortly. Indians at this point stated to the Commissioners that while they owned their own lands in the present town of Telegraph Creek, they expected if there were to be any influx of white settlers, it would be better that they sell out and move to the place that they have applied for. This place lies between what is known as the Casca Ranch and the town of Telegraph Creek and it is on the left-hand side of the Creek. There is an old flume that passes through this land with an abundance of water in the Creek and with small repairs this flume could be utilized for the purpose of irrigating the land applied for, and also for furnishing water for domestic purposes. It is estimated that the land applied for covers an area of about 40 or 50 acres and as far as could be learned, it is open Government land.

NO PAGE 11. (Eleven)

and the lake.

A Yes.

Q. I suppose the Indians of the Casca Band make their living principally by trapping and hunting?

A. Yes.

Q. And the Agent will know what places you want for fishing and hunting?

A. Yes.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA TO INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: Are there any of the Indians from the Liard Band here?

INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: No Sir. I went down there but could not see one. The Liard Indians are Nomads who are scattered all over.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MEETING WITH THE ATLIN BOARD OF TRADE AT ATLIN, B.C. on
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16th, 1915.

COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL addresses the meeting as follows:

Gentlemen of the Atlin Board of Trade: On the 17th, of February last, your Secretary, Mr. Taylor wrote to the Secretary of the Royal Commission, stating that you were desirous of meeting the Commission when in your district, and on the 4th, March a reply was sent stating that the Commission would be here on or about the 16th. June, and I now have pleasure in meeting you on behalf of myself and brother Commissioners. There are five Commissioners, but on account of the size of the Province and the desire to have our work completed soon the Commission has divided; but at meetings of this sort, and in fact at every meeting we have so far had the pleasure of attending, all that is said is taken down by our Secretary and gone into carefully and thoroughly when the full Commission meets in Victoria, and when our final report is sent in to Ottawa and Victoria, both Governments will be furnished with full stenographic reports - consequently everything that takes place during the lifetime of this Commission will be on file. Now I understand from this letter of Mr. Taylor's that the matter you wish to discuss is the question on the Indian Reserves in and around this district, and I shall be very much obliged if your Chairman will kindly start the ball rolling and tell me what it is you desire.

MR. NEVILLE here upon addresses the Commission as follows:

I think what our wish is about the Indians is that they should be moved to some further spot than where they are now because where they are now is part of the surveyed town and we think it is not desirable to have the Indians right what I might call the centre of the town because at some future date the place might be required for white people when the camp goes ahead, which we hope will be soon. There is lots of good mineral deposits around here and consequently when these mines are opened up it will naturally bring in a larger influx of

white settlers into this place than what we have at the present time. Another thing about getting the Indian removed is that a lot of them are very unhealthy, and we don't think it is right that they should be so close to the town. I think that is our chief complaint about them being on that spot, and they simply came and squatted there when the white men came, and if there were no white men there you would soon see that the Indians would move away to some other place where there were white men.

MR. EGERT ADDRESSES THE COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

Our President has outlined to a certain extent this appeal of the Atlin Board of Trade which practically represents the citizens of Atlin. Now of course this is a question which has been hanging fire for a number of years - we have corresponded with the Indian Agent in Victoria previous to this and we have been living in the hope that something would be done ere this. As far as I can understand the Indians have been approached before by the Agent, and they seem to be perfectly willing to move to some other place as long as they get an Indian reserve. Now the Board of Trade has looked into the matter as well and we think that this spot located at Five Mile Point is as fine a place as could be got anywehre and would answer their purpose perfectly - It is only a short distance from the town and they could easily come in and get what supplies they needed - they could come either by water or by land. As the President pointed out there is a matter of health connected with this matter and this certainly should be looked into. It is a well known fact that the major part of the Indians are dying much more rapidly than the whites and the cause of their dying off so rapidly is attributable to tuberculosis. Now we think that this is a thing that is not very safe and we want this matter to be looked into. Another point is that they came here only after the whites settled in the best quarter of the town - Now I don't want to give anyone the impression that

to do the Indians any injustice - that is not my intention at all - I am simply pointing out the facts as they exist and I think it is our duty to point these matters out. I am not or have not been here for a few months or a few years - I have been in this part of the country for sixteen years and I consider this my home, and I think it is our duty to see that those that come after us will not be imposed upon as it has been on the Coast like Victoria and Vancouver where the Government has had to pay the Indians large sums of money to get them to move on to some other location further away from the whites.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do you think the place called Five Mile Point would be a suitable location for these Indians?

A. Well, I understand you gentlemen were going to go out there to-day, but from what Mr. Tyson tells me you now expect to make the trip Friday. In order to see the place I think it would be better if you could arrange to go down by boat - you will see it to far greater advantage then if you visited it by road. As far as the location is concerned, our intention is not to push the Indians out - we want them to have a proper place where they can live; but we don't like to have them in our midst, and I think that place is an ideal place for a reserve there - It is sheltered from the winds, and they have a very nice place there to keep their boats and canoes - the land lies very well and really I consider the location is an ideal one. They are not far distant from the town, and they could get their supplies either by water or by the road so we consider we are not asking for anything that is not fair.

CAPT. HAWTHORN, R.N. (retired) addresses the Commission as follows:

I don't think I can add anything to what has already been said by the previous speakers, although I suppose the majority of the people would like to see the Indians removed - at the same time I think there is another thing that should be taken into consideration. The missionaries have taken a great deal of trouble to educate and bring up

these Indians and I suppose they still have an interest in the buildings down there on that Reserve and that sort of thing, and there is no doubt the Indians have been benefitted largely by being so close here - they have learned English; a good many of them, and they have proved themselves useful as everyone can testify when we had last large fire here, and really I myself consider they are quite an asset to the place - but still it is the desire of the majority of the community that they should be set further away, so I suppose it had better be done. I do not know what the attitude of the Indians on this matter is, but no doubt the Indian Agent has had a chat with them.

INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: I may say that the Indians here are very adverse to being removed from their present abode.

CAPT. HAWTHORN, continuing: Well, I think they have a good cause of being adverse to their being removed - They have gone to a lot of trouble putting up buildings and they have always behaved themselves remarkably well and I think it would be very disagreeable for them if we were to shift them and leave them alone where they would be the target for a certain number of undesirable white men who would be sure to go and live alongside of them.

MR. EGERT again addresses the Commission as follows:

As far as the Indians here being able to make a living, there is no question but that they are able to do it, that is if they want to. Of course this winter they have not been quite as successful as they have been in the past, but in previous years it was nothing for an Indian to leave for the woods and in three months to return with skins worth anywhere from \$1000. to \$2,500. Some of them have been lucky enough to get some fine foxes whose pelts were worth from \$1200. to \$1500. per skin - So I say Indians here, if they want to, are really not to be pitied. They are away ahead and a finer class of Indian than what we have around Vancouver or Fort Rupert. Now there is

another matter which has not been touched upon yet, and that is a great many of the Indians make this their headquarters when they come down for their potlatch, and generally they are accompanied by a great number of starving curs - we have tried to get them to feed their dogs, but they seem to follow the line of least resistance and let them rustle for themselves. If you happen to leave a window open in the house they will take your kitchen. I have seen them come right into my own place and my wife would have a roast on the table ready to cook or perhaps to serve and these half starved curs would jump right up on top of the table and be off with it and out through the window before you could do anything. I have seen them go right into a house and take a hot soup plate right off the stove and walk off with it,, and I have witnesses here who will bear me out in this statement. They come into town here and rustle where they can get it, and it is one of the biggest pests we have and it certainly is not pleasing.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: I beg to thank you for your attendance here this evening, and I can assure you, gentlemen, that all that you have said will have the careful attention of the full Commission on our return to Victoria. I might say I went to the Lands Office today with Mr. Fraser, your Government Agent, who showed me the Government maps, and I discovered that the Indians houses are mostly located on Lot 5 - there are 3 houses on Lot 6 and about 2 on Lot 4. On Lot 6 the three Indians who are located there made an application to purchase but this application has not as yet been acted upon. I learned further that Lot 5, on which there are some Indian houses, is the private property of the Rev. Father Buno - I believe that Lot was purchased by Father Allard and was later turned over to Father Buno as his private property of the property of the Roman Catholic Church. Being the private property of Father Buno or the Roman Catholic Church, it is beyond the jurisdiction of this Commission, and we can not order anyone off private property as they have the same liberty as anyone else. I am very pleased that you have made the suggestion regarding Five Mile Point, and while, of course, I cannot express any opinion now, I can assure you that on our return to Victoria where

ROYAL COMMISSION on INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Meeting with the Atlin Band or Tribe of Indians at Atlin, B. C
on Tuesday, June 17th, 1915.*

EDGAR SIDNEY is sworn to act as Interpreter.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL explains to the assembled Indians as to
the scope and power of the Commission, and

TAKU JACK (CHIEF) ADDRESSES THE COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

I want you to explain to me what it is you want me to do?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *I want you to tell me if you have
any special piece of land that you want the whites kept off
so that no white man can settle on it and it will be kept for
the Indians?*

THE CHIEF: *Do you want to move the Indians anywhere besides this
place?*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *This Commission has no power to remove
the Indians. Can you show me any special piece of land on
this map that you don't want the whites to take and that the
Indians will have forever?*

THE CHIEF: *I don't know anything about a map - I cannot read, and
you know how big this land is and I know it because it belongs
to me.*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *We are not here to do you any harm -
we are here to help the Indians and do them good.*

THE CHIEF: *I am asking you what are you going to do for me?*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *That is just what I want - I want you
to explain to me what you want?*

THE CHIEF: *This is the only country we have here - You know how
big this British Columbia is and this all belongs to me and
this is my country.*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *But you don't want the whole country
do you?*

THE CHIEF: *I like this country - I was born here and this country
belongs to me.*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *You don't want to turn the white men
out of the country do you?*

THE CHIEF: *No, there is no trouble about the whites - we don't
bother them and they don't bother us - we are just like brothers*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: *When a white man wants land the first*

[p. 19] thing (he does is to go to the Government and gets that piece of land. When the Indians want a piece of land they have to go to the Government and get a title to that piece of land. If they just go wandering about the country, some day a white man will come in and take the very piece of land the Indians want - so we want to give the Indians the first choice so that it will be secured to them.

THE CHIEF.: You got no land to give to me - This land belongs to me
MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: That question is going to be settled before the Courts - I mean before the Exchequer Court in Ottawa and the Government is going to pay a good lawyer to argue the case of the Indians, and if the Indians's lawyer is not satisfied with the judgement he gets, then the case is to be taken to the King's Privy Council in London and the Government of Canada is going to pay all the expenses so that it won't cost the Indians anything; but in the meantime we want to know what piece or pieces of land the Indians would like to keep for themselves.

THE CHIEF: Excuse me because I did not receive any word from Telegraph Creek and I did not receive any letter from them and I don't know what they said?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: We met the Indians of Telegraph Creek at that point and we have come here to meet you, and we know what the Indians want there because they told us what it was they wanted.

THE CHIEF: So that I won't make a mistake, I want you to tell me what they said?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: The whole matter was explained to them in the same way as I have explained it here, and afterwards Joe Coburn took us and showed us some land that the Indians wanted and we are going to try and get it for them.

THE CHIEF: Did you give the land to them?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: We only make recommendations to the Government, and the Government will reserve the land for them - but Joe Coburn showed us the land they wanted. It is our duty to do the best we can for the Indians, and if they will only tell

us what they want it will make it easier for us to do it.

THE CHIEF: If we have hard living, are you going to make it easier for us to do it?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Well, if you will explain to us about your hard living, we will make recommendations to the Government and try and make it easier for you.

THE CHIEF: I don't quite understand this business - The way I think that you people are going to try and push us out of this country. I was born here and I was here before the whites ever came here. I don't think myself that the whites would try to make us go a very long way from here, and I don't think the white men will try and push us out of here so that the white men cannot see us. Everyone of us used to be here in this country before the whites came here right in this place and everyone was dying, and my father and mother used to cry on account of the people dying. I don't want to kick about the white people coming in here and I am not trying to drive them out - If they want to go prospecting, let them go - we are just like one brother - we are just as though we are eating off one table - That is all right; it is no good for us to have a piece of land all by ourselves - If you give us people a piece of land we are not free. This is my own country and I want to keep it. A white man comes to a creek and gets gold out of that creek after awhile he leaves it and we are sorry to see the white man go away - but we are not like that - we stay here all the time because the land is ours. It is no good for us to move out of this place because this is our country. We gave the names to the places around here and these old names came from our old forefathers and they are just named the same to this day - I don't think you believe me when I tell you I belong to this place.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Yes, I believe you belong to this place.

THE CHIEF: Do you know what this lake (Atlin) is called?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: I know it is called Atlin Lake, but I don't know what it is called in Atlin?

THE CHIEF: What does Atlin mean?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: I don't know what it means?

THE CHIEF: Acklin means BIG LAKE, and that is the place where we used to stay - that is the reason I used to think that the whites were not going to give me any trouble because they call us after this lake - they call us Atlin Indians because they know that I belong to this country.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Have you any grievances against the Indian Department that you want to tell us about?

THE CHIEF: I feel glad and just as happy as can be when I heard that the white people were coming in here and I used to make money out of the furs. I used to think I could get work from the white people but I never did. If the Government is trying to help us, it is better for the Government to help us this way by giving us some work so that we can make some money to feed our children with. This little piece of land that you are going to try and give us, it would not do us very good. These Japs over here we cannot do anything because they are working up on the creek and we cannot do anything. I am going to leave the talk for a while - I want you to speak to me.

THE CHIEF IS HEREUPON CALLED AND SWORN.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: You say you got no work from the white:

A. No.

Q. And you say that the Japs get work from the whites instead of the Indians, do you?

A. Yes.

Q. And you want the Government to give you some work to do so that you can make a living for your children?

A. Yes. The Japs over here on the creeks; and I want the young fellows to make some money, but myself, I own this place and I don't want to do anything because I am the Chief.

Q. You want some work for your young people?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you like your young people to make their living in the same way as the white men make their living?

A. I don't want to work for miners - I want to go hunting fur because that is what I live on. I don't want to work for miners

Q. You mean by that that you would not or don't want to work in a mine?

A. No. Some white men raise cattle and that gives them food, but Indians never do that?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do you know Johnnie Chilliheetza?

A. Yes.

Q. Well he has about 400 head of cattle and he is a rich man and he raises cattle and grain?

A. I hunt fur and that is all I want - I don't want to work for wages.

Q. What is your name?

A. Johnson.

Q. (To the Chief) Would not some of your young men like to have a farm like some of the Indians in the Kootenay and Okanagan?

JOHN JACK: None of us know nothing about farming because we don't know anything about it - because we cannot handle it.

Q. Would you like the Government to send a man out here and show you how to farm?

A. The garden is growing up now - Just two old people have tried to make a garden but they can't do it. Just in about 1 ½ months everything will be finished; that is our garden - it is growing up now and suppose you send that man up to teach the Indians and we cannot learn it at all, the first thing we know our garden is growing up in about 1 ½ months - there is no gardens here and we cannot grow anything here at all. I lived twenty years among the mountains in the Northwest and the Indians there lived on Buffalo - A man was sent to teach them how to farm, and now they are well off and have large gardens and farms. [A.]. We are not going to do anything like the Blackfeet - It is alright for them because it is a warm country where they are, but here we only have two months of good weather and there is no time to grow anything - Down there it is warm and they have lots of time to grow whatever they put

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: It is double as cold there as it is here and there is a plain down through which the wind sweeps?

- A. We have seen some people around here trying to raise some turnips and potatoes but they never get any bigger than about one inch on account of the cold weather.
- Q. Then you think the white men won't come here to farm?
- A. If the white men think about coming here let him come and try. If he thinks he can make anything let him come. If he tries to grow anything it will freeze.
- Q. So I suppose there won't be many white men come in here so that there will be plenty of game?
- A. The white people are chasing all the game off from this place but they are right there (in the woods) all the same. The white men have big corrals and they have cattle in here but these wild animals in the brush there are so many of them that in ten years time they will be there still.
- MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL (to the Chief) Do they catch much fish out of the lake for their living?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And they can get all the game they require?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And that is the way they make their living?
- A. We have to live on fish and game - moose, porcupine, gofers, and if the white men want some of them they buy it from us.
- Q. Have you a school for your children?
- A. Father Allard had a school for one year and the children used to go there, and it is about two years ago since he left.
- Q. Would you like the Government to put up a school and supply a teacher for your children?
- TELEGRAPH JACK, Interjects: Suppose a man is hungry and he is not satisfied with his dinner, well, he goes away. It is just the same way with our children - if they are hungry for the school they want to go to school. Suppose a man came to me and I gave him a piece of bread when he is pretty hungry it is not enough and he cannot get full - it is just the same with the children they want more education.

Q. You would like to have a school all the time?

A. Yes.

Q. How many children are there who could attend the school among the Atlin Band?

A. Some of the people are away and I cannot tell you how many children there are.

Q. Now your Indian Agent has counted the children - would you be satisfied with that count - he says there are 42 children. I suppose that is correct, is it?

THE CHIEF: That is right.

Q. That is quite enough to make a good school - Your Indian Agent says there are fifteen families among the Atlin Band?

A. That is right.

Q. Have you a doctor who attends to you when you and the other Indians are ill?

INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: Yes they have a doctor - his name is Dr. Harrison and he receives so much a year from the Department.

THE CHIEF: The doctor comes down to see the people but he don't give us medicine free - we have to go to the drug store and get it and we have to pay for it.

Q. Do you have to pay the doctor?

A. No, we just pay for the medicine.

Q. And you are quite satisfied with that arrangement are you?

A. Suppose we got cut, we have to go to the hospital and we have to pay for the hospital and also for the medicine.

Q. (To Indian Agent) Does not the Government contribute something towards the hospital?

A. Yes, I believe they do.

Q. (To the Indian Agent) Do the Indians have to pay for the hospital as well?

INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: The Government pays the hospital \$1.00 a day for any Indian that goes there.

Q. (To the Indians) If you have any difficulties or complaints in that way you should communicate with your Indian Agent and tell him all about it?

THE CHIEF: All right we will do that.

- Q. What religion do these Indians belong to?
- A. To the Catholic church.
- Q. Does the Priest come and see the Indians frequently?
- A. Every summer - sometimes two times and sometimes one time.
- Q. Where does he come from?
- A. From Whitehorse, and sometimes the Priest comes from Dawson.
- Q. Have you a church here?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When the Priest is not here do you use the church yourselves?
- A. Yes, we go in there every Sunday.
- Q. Is there anything particular that you want the Government to do for you?
- A. If any of us kill a moose, we want some sugar and bread and we have to sell the meat to the white men, but the Court takes us up and they say it is against the law to sell the meat.
- Q. (To Indian Agent) Is this an organized district?
- INDIAN AGENT SCOTT SIMPSON: Yes, this is an organized district.
- Q. (To the Indians) I don't know whether we can make any change or not - however we will bring that matter to the attention of the Government. Of course you understand I am not making any promises, because I don't know whether the Government will change the law or not. Are you ever interfered with when you are fishing?
- A. No.
- Q. What kind of fish do you generally catch?
- A. Whitefish and trout, roundfish, greyling, pike, ringfish, suckers and king salmon on the Taku river. We used to have lots of salmon on the river, but the people are putting up nets and very few come down here.
- Q. That is on the American side is it where they put the nets up?
- A. Yes - There are a few on the Taku river and we used to stay down there to dry the fish, but they are not so plentiful now so we catch our fish down here (Atlin Lake) and dry them down here. My name is not Taku, but the people know that I belong to Taku and they call me Taku. One time a white man came in here and called me Taku Jack so the white men call that long arm on Atlin Lake

Taku Arm after me. The Government say that they don't allow the Indians to kill grouse and blue grouse and the birds that we used to live on and the Indians leave them alone, but the white men they kill them but us Indians we never touch them.

Q. The only time they don't want to be killed is when they are bringing up their young - because in killing one bird at that time you may be killing twenty. I am glad to hear, however, you are obeying the law.

THE CHIEF: Why is it the white men kill the birds?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: They ought not to and the Judge should fine them or put them in goal - The Constable should get after those people.

THE CHIEF: Long before the whites came here we never killed any birds when they were laying eggs and we never killed beaver either in the close season.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: All that you have said here to-day has been taken down and copies of it will be sent to both the Ottawa Government and the Victoria Government so that they can read over what you have said here at this meeting. I am much obliged to you for meeting me here to-day - the other four Commissioners are in different parts of the Province among other Indians and when the Commissioners all get together in Victoria they will take these notes and read them over and they will know what to do then because they want to help the Indians wherever they possibly can, and as far as the Indians living in Atlin is concerned, this Commission has no power to move them.

THE CHIEF: Thank you.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: But of course this Commission has no power to do anything like that, still the Governor-General in-Council has power to do anything with either Indians or whites; so if the Governor General says to the whites "You will have to move away from this place" they have to move; and if he says to the Indians "You will have to move" well, they will have to move in the same way. If afterwards you talk among yourselves and you come to the conclusion that you want more land, you let Mr. Simpson, your Indian Agent know and when he comes to Victoria

he will be able to tell us all about it. This is probably the last time that the Government will ask you to do anything of that kind and perhaps you will be helping yourselves and children by doing this.

THE CHIEF: Mr. Simpson knows where we are now and this is our country

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: The place where you are now, I believe belongs to Rev. Father Bunoz and we cannot possibly give you that because we cannot give you land that belongs to any white man - we can only give you free Government land. Father Allard bought the land and then he transferred it to Rev. Father Bunoz and he holds it and its his property or the property of the Catholic church.

THE CHIEF: That is the way the white men are treating the Indians. This man (Father Bunoz) he put up the school in our place and now he wants the whole place.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: The probability is that Father Allard purchased that so that the Indians could use it?

A. John Jack was going to move his place nearer the church and I told him to move it further away from the church and Father Allard said "Don't you do it because I am going to buy all this country so that you people can live on it."

Q. Well, he is a very kind friend? However, we found in Mr. Fraser's office that this land belongs to him or to the Catholic church?

A. I want you to tell Father Allard that we don't want any trouble about this land.

Q. This land belongs to the Priest and we cannot say anything regarding it.

*Notes by Mr. Commissioner Macdowall on board S.S. "Gleaner"
on Friday, June 18th, 1915.*

The INdians stated at their meeting on the 16th. June with the Commission that it would be impossible to carry on agriculture successfully in the Atlin district because the potatoes 'never ripened and turnips grow to the size of about one inch in diameter and nothing else would grow successfully. On enquiry being made from trustworthy sources by the Commissioners, they found there were two large gardens between Atlin and Discovery and two ranches on the lake. In the garden grew sweet turnips that would run as big as a man's head, also beets, carrots and onions grew well and lettuce grows to a very large size, also that barley grows a good crop and ripens on the ranches. On the 17th. June the Commissioners went by the steamer "SCOTIA" to inspect some land at what is known as Lowe Point or Five Mile Point, where they found a large and safe bay for anchorage both for big and small boats. The ground was covered with good poplars and spruce which would indicate good soil; at the same time there would be sufficient wood for both fuel and building logs, and they have instructed the local surveyor, Mr. W.B. Rimmer, who has a recommendation of ability from Mr. Dawson, the Surveyor-General of the Province, to submit an estimate of the cost of making a preliminary survey, and also a detailed survey of about 1,800 acres at this Point which would be suitable for the Indians. This estimate will be submitted to the Commission for such action as they deem expedient.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF British Columbia

*Meeting with Indian Edgar Sidney, representing the Teslin
Lake Band or Tribe of Indians at Atlin, B. C. June 17th, 1915.*

EDGAR SIDNEY addresses the Commission as follows:

I would like to know what you want me to say?

*MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Can you tell me what piece or pieces
of land is required by the Indians of your Band?*

*A. I cannot say because it is hard for me to say - The Indians
want to be free in the country, and they think if they take
or ask for a piece of land that it will be no good for them.
I heard that the Indian Agent was coming up here some time ago
but he never came, and I also heard that this Commission was
coming up here to see us but the Indians never showed up - they
never waited - I told them to stay until you came but they
went off. I don't belong to Teslin - I belong to Alaska
and I have done lots of work there interpreting and these
Indians are against me because I belong to Alaska. These Indians
say it is no good for us to have one piece of land - we want
to be free as we were before.*

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Why did not the Teslin Chief come in?

*A. I don't know - because I heard that the Liard Indians were
coming out this summer. Mr. Brick, the minister, told me that
and he said that the man that had told him had died and they
blamed the Teslin Indians about it. They would not come be-
cause they had some trouble with the Liard Indians.*

*M. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: They had better make friends quickly so
that they will be able to give Mr. Simpson all the information
he wants.*

*INDIAN AGENT SIMPSON: They left their guns half way between here
and Teslin Lake when this man died and they all went back with
the body.*

*MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL (to Edgar Sidney) Do the Teslin Indians
make their living by hunting and fishing?*

A. Yes.

Q. Have they any school there?

A. Yes.

Q. Who is it that keeps the school?

A. Mr. Brett.

Q. What is he?

A. He is the English church man.

Q. And do the children attend the school there frequently?

A. Not very often. He is anxious to get the boys and girls to go there, but they don't go. I am sorry to say that we used to have a school ourselves over at Sitka - he was very nice to us. He never caned us but brought us up to his desk and talked to us; but the teacher over there he is willing to fight with the Indians and he puts God's name in vain; and one time I told him "I am an Indian and I am ashamed of you because to take God's name in vain" and I told him he would have to pay me for interpreting and he said "I don't make any money" and I said there are my dogs so you must be the same way as they are."

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: You say the teacher is no good?

A. Bishop Springer put him in there, and I wrote to the Bishop and told him he is no good.

Q. What did the Bishop say?

A. He said I don't know whether you are a white man or an Indian and I will let him go for another year. One time an Indian nearly killed him - he was going to hit him with a stick and the Indian dodged the stick and nearly killed him.

INDIAN AGENT SIMPSON: These main Teslin Indians have their village at Nasutlaon which is in the Yukon Territory and the school teacher is a missionary that comes there at certain seasons of the year and at other times of the year he runs a school at Champagne Landing.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Is that in British Columbia?

INDIAN AGENT SIMPSON: No - it is in Yukon Territory. These people have no reserves in B. C. at all.

EDGAR SIDNEY: The way that the Indians speak of it is this way - They met together this morning and the Indians over at Teslin and the Indians over here at Atlin they are brothers, and the white men and the Indians have lots of fun - We have a good time with the Teslin Indians when they come over and we are going to

*have a good time together yet before we die, so it is not right
for us to be separated from the whites or the whites from the
Indians.*

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meeting with the Teslin Lake Band or Tribe of Indians on
the Atlin I. R. on Saturday, June 19th, 1915.

EDGAR SIDNEY is sworn to act as Interpreter,

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL explains to the assembled Indians the
scope and power of the Commission, and

CHIEF BILLY JOHNSON addresses the Commission as follows:

I feel very glad to see you here to-day - I have come a long way to see you and I am going to tell you just how we live. I am just here to see you because someone told us you were coming here. I thought you were stopping over here to see me, and I am glad that you have come over here to see us. If you were to stop until tomorrow we would be glad to tell you all we have to say, but as you are leaving tomorrow I will try and tell you now what I have to say. I don't want to have any land - I want to be free as I was before - just like the Chief of the Atlins who is sitting on the other side of me - This is my country and it belongs to me. I don't know how to work at anything. My father, grandfather and uncle just taught me how to live, and I have always done what they told me - We learned this from our fathers and grandfathers and our uncles how to do the things among ourselves and we teach our children in the same way and we are going to keep on doing this until the last. The time is coming now - About 1 ½ months more everything is coming up; that is the garden stuff and that is what we are going to live on, and that is all we know and any other work besides that we cannot do.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: If your children are taught to do the other things the white men do, don't you think you could learn to do it?

A. I have no children.

Q. But I mean the Indians generally?

A. We have no one to teach us.

Q. Suppose the Government gave you a man to teach you, don't you think the Indians could learn then?

A. What are they going to teach our children?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: To make their living in the same way as the white men make their living.

WITNESS: Just whatever you think about it - if you feel like leaving the school here to teach our children, well you can do it.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Have you any grievances?

A. We are going to keep to the camp work as our grandfathers and our fathers used to teach us, and we don't want to leave that work.

Q. Then you think the Government treats you well or do you think you are not treated well by the Government?

A. I wish all my people of the Teslin Lake were over here - If they were you could hear what they would have to say. Suppose I asked for land and they said "No" I would be in a very bad fix so I don't want to say anything about the land.

THE CHIEF IS HEREUPON CALLED AND SWORN.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: You are the Chief of the Teslin Lake Band of Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. About how many people are in the Band?

A. I don't know.

Q. Are there about eighty people in the Band?

A. Just about forty people - The whites are dying off and of course you know the Indians are dying off too.

Q. Does the number you have just given, forty, include the children and old people?

A. Including the children and old people there are about 80.

Q. How do your people make their living?

A. The only way we can make our living is when we can kill game and also we make our living by fishing.

Q. Is the game getting scarce?

A. No, there is lots of game now, but the time is coming when we will go out to hunt because the game is getting pretty fat - Just the same as you white people putting seeds in the ground. The game is just the same with us.

Q. Where do you have your houses or where do you live principally?

A. There is a trading post belonging to Drury at the mouth of Nasatlin river and we have houses there where we trade our skins for food.

Q. Where do you make your home?

A. At the mouth of Jennings' river - all our people live there.

Q. How many houses have you there?

A. Four houses.

Q. How many families live there in these houses?

A. One family in each house.

Q. Is that a good fishing place?

A. Yes, there is lots of fish there.

Q. Where do the rest of the people live if there are only four houses there?

A. There used to be lots of cabins there but they have all rotted down, and there is also four cabins across from Jennings river and now they are all scattered around and the majority of them live in tents. In the summer time they come over to the mouth of Nasatlan river to trade for food and after that we go back to Jennings' river.

Q. Would you not like to have some land kept for yourselves where your houses are?

A. If our grandfathers - if some other people had given them land then it would have been all right, but now we own the land and no one can give us any land because we own the land ourselves. God put us in here and we own this land ourselves.

Q. Are there any white men in that country?

A. Just five white men that is all.

Q. Some day there might be more white men come in to that country?

A. Why is it that no white men are allowed to go in to that country?

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: White men are allowed to go in to that part of the country?

A. I would be expecting to be as one brother with the white man - If a white man wanted anything to eat I would give him something to eat and I want to live like a brother with the white man all the time. Mr. Fraser (Gov't Agent) knows me and he knows what I am doing.

Q. What we want to do is to give you some land where your houses are so that you will have it for yourselves - so that no one can come and take it away from you at some time, and you have

already been told it is not our desire to make you live there all the time or corral you in - you can go as you are going now all over the country. Would you not like to have some land secured to you at the mouth of Jennings river where you now have your houses?

A. This is our own country and we own the country ourselves and no one can give us any land.

Q. Have you any horses?

A. No.

Q. Any cattle?

A. No.

Q. For travelling about the country you use dogs, I suppose?

A. Yes.

Q. Do any of your children go to school?

A. There is a school at Nasatlan Bay in the Yukon where Drury's store is but they have no chance to go to school - they cannot stay there long enough to get an education.

Q. Is it a day school?

A. Yes.

Q. So that that school is of no use to the Indians at all?

A. That is right - they can only go there for a short time.

Q. Would you like to have provision made for the children to be educated in a boarding school somewhere?

A. If a school is built right here at Atlin we will send our children right over here - that is a boarding school just like they have at Sitka.

Q. Does a missionary ever visit your people?

A. The man that teaches the school at Nasatlan is a missionary. He comes there to visit the Indians about two months and then he leaves, so that the children only have a very short time in which to attend the school.

Q. When any of your people are sick do they get medical attendance?

A. We have no doctor.

Q. Do your people make a good living - do they get plenty of game and plenty of fish?

A. We get plenty - In the olden times the old people used to live on game and fish and we live on the same thing. We get lots of game and fish.

Q. Do you get a good deal of fur to sell?

A. Yes, we get lots of fur.

Q. If there is anything else that you wish to say that you cannot think of just now, if you will tell your Indian Agent what it is he will report it to us when he comes down to see us in Victoria - He should be in Victoria by November so that you should see him in plenty of time before that - You should see him not later than October and he will arrange to meet you so that when he comes to Victoria he will be able to tell us what your needs are.

A. I have just come in a very long way and I have not had time to tell you everything. I will think over all I want to say and will tell Mr. Simpson all about it. I would rather meet the Agent in July.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Well you can have a chat with Mr. Simpson and I am sure he will do the best he can to meet you whenever you are ready to see him.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meeting with W. Scott Simpson, Indian Agent for the Stikine Agency at the Board Room, Victoria, B. C. on Tuesday, January 18th 1916 as to the reserves in his Agency.

Witness is hereupon sworn to give evidence.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: You are the Agent for the Stikine Agency?

A. Yes.

Q. How long have you been Agent?

A. Four years.

Q. You only have two Reserves in your Agency?

A. Only two.

Q. And they both belong to the Tahltan Band of Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. The Tahltan Reserve is said to contain 375 acres?

A. Yes.

Q. What sort of land is that?

A. Non-agricultural.

Q. Is it a good place for their village site?

A. They have an inadequate water supply, but the site as a building site is good, but the water supply is insufficient.

Q. And it is used mostly as a fishing station?

A. Yes.

Q. I suppose five or ten acres would do for the village and the fishing station?

A. The village is some distance from the fishing station.

Q. What do they use the balance of the Reserve for? Is there any grazing land on it?

A. The Reserve was originally an Indian village with about twenty-five houses; it is on a plateau above the junction of the Tahltan River with the Stikine River - they built there on account of them having fresh water from the creek there and they store their salmon there after their fishing season is over.

Q. Is it a good fishing point?

A. Very good.

Q. It doesn't seem to be much good for anything else except for fish.

A. No.

Q Do you know Hieusta's Meadow?

A. Yes.

Q. That is about three miles from the Tahltan Reserve?

A. Yes.

Q. What sort of land is that?

A. That is simply a small swamp and they cut hay around the edge of the swamp.

Q. Do all the Indians share that alike or does it belong to one Indian?

A. There are three Indians there who have horses and they use it for their horses.

Q. Have these Indians any cattle?

A. No.

Q. How many horses have they?

A. Twelve in all.

Q. Are these twelve horses owned by three men?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the population of the Tahltan Band?

A. 217, made up of 120 males and 97 females.

Q. How many of these are children?

A. There are under six years of age, 17 males and 13 females; from six to fifteen of school age, 28 males and 22 females; from sixteen to twenty, 16 males and 11 females; from 21 to 65, there are 51 males and 48 females; from 66 upwards, there are 8 males and 11 females, which makes a total of 120 males and 97 females or a grand total of 217.

Q. The Tahltan Reserves seem to be rocky and Hieusta's Meadow is a place where a little hay is cut?

A. In the Tahltan village they have three or four small patches of fifty or hundred feet square on which they have been trying to grow potatoes. If they had water there they could raise vegetables but the supply has been inadequate, and their vegetables have not been much of a success.

Q. What is the population of the Casca and Fort Graham Nomads - are these Fort Graham Indians taken into account in Mr. McAllen's agency?

A. No, not those.

Q. They remain within your Agency?

A. They sometimes make a visit to their original station at Fort Graham to meet some of their relatives but their main village and hunting ground is within my Agency.

Q. What is the population of these Indians?

A. The population of the Casca Band is 70.

Q. How many males and females?

A. 35 males and 35 females.

Q. How many children under six years of age?

A. 8 males and 5 females; from 6 to 15 of school age, 5 males and 11 females; from 16 to 20, 3 males and 4 females; from 21 to 65, 19 males and 15 females, from 66 upwards, none, grand total, 70.

Q. What is the population of these Fort Graham Nomads?

A. They have a population of 32 - 16 males and 16 females.

Q. How many children under six years of age?

A. No males, one female; from 6 to 15, 3 males and 2 females; from 16 to 20, 5 males and 5 females; from 21 to 65, 8 males and 6 females; from 65 upwards, no males, 2 females, total 16 males and 16 females, grand total, 32.

Q. In this District there is only one other Tribe - the Liards?

A. There are the Liards and the Francis Lake, but they are practically one tribe although I have them enumerated separately, and then we have the Nelsons in addition to that.

Q. Do the Nelsons belong to the Yukon River?

A. No, they are down on the borders of the McKenzie River - Nelson River is in British Columbia.

Q. Whereabouts is the Nelson River?

A. It is on the borders between the Northwest Territories and British Columbia.

Q. (Examining map) I see that Dease River empties into the Liard?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it near Mosquito River?

A. (Examining map) No, that map doesn't show it at all.

Q. Would you give me the population of the Liards?

A. The total population of the Liards and Francis Lake Indians together is 79, made up as follows, 39 males and 40 females; under six years

8 males, 4 females; from 6 to 15, 7 males, 11 females; from 16 to 20, 1 male, 5 females; from 21 to 65, 20 males, 18 females; from 65 upwards, 3 males and 2 females, total 39 males, 40 females, grand total 79.

Q. When was this census taken?

A. In 1914. The Nelson River Nomads are the next and their population is 91, made up as follows; 50 males and 41 females. Under six years of age, 7 males and 4 females; from 6 to 15, 21 males, 13 females; from 16 to 20, 5 males and 9 females; from 21 to 65, 16 males, 15 females; from 65 upwards, 1 male, no females, total 50 males, 41 females, grand total 91.

Q. I think these are all the Indians from Telegraph Creek?

A. Yes.

Q. We will now go to the Atlin Band of Indians - what is the population of that Band?

A. Their population is 150 in all - 80 males and 70 females. Under six years of age, 9 males, 8 females; from 6 to 15, 22 males, 20 females; from 16 to 20, 6 males, 4 females; from 21 to 65, 42 males, 37 females; from 65 upwards, 1 male, 1 female, total 80 males, 70 females, grand total, 150.

Q. That takes in the whole of the Indians in your Agency?

A. Yes.

Q. At Telegraph Creek the Tahltan Band of Indians what church do they belong to?

A. The bulk of them are Church of England - there are a few that come from the Bear Lake country who are Roman catholics, but there has been no priest in that section of the country for years

Q. Have they a church there?

A. Yes.

Q. Have they a resident clergyman?

A. Yes.

Q. Does he minister to their wants satisfactorily?

A. Yes, not only does he act as clergyman, but he also acts as a medical man amongst them.

Q. What is his name?

- A. *Thorman - he gets no remuneration at all. The Department gives him drugs and he does gratuitously.*
- Q. *Is he a trained Doctor?*
- A. *No, but he is studying.*
- Q. *Is Dr. Hughes there still?*
- A. *He is there yet but he was turned out by the Department, but owing to the recommendations made by some of the residents he was again put in charge.*
- Q. *Who is in charge of the hospital now?*
- A. *There is no one at all.*
- Q. *Does anyone live in the hospital at the present time?*
- A. *No one.*
- Q. *Is it a Provincial hospital?*
- A. *It is a hospital supported by the Dominion and Provincial Governments both.*
- Q. *When we were there, and I think Dr. McKenna will bear me out in saying that the Chief said that he and the rest of the Indians were well treated by this Doctor at the hospital?*
- A. *It is quite possible that he might have said so.*
- Q. *(Reading from evidence on Page 9): Are you sure that Dr. Hughes did not attend the Indians?*
- A. *In my report to the Government I reported a case where Dr. Hughes did not do his duty, and that report is already before the Department. There was a boy who fell down and knocked his arm out of joint; the father of this boy had been owing Dr. Hughes a bill for medical services, and he came running down to the town and met the Doctor in Galbraith's place and told him what had happened and asked him to come up and see the boy; the Doctor replied "You have been owing me a bill for some time, and you are very lax in paying up, and you find fault with my treatment of your children, and I will have nothing to do with the case at all. The man came to me and asked me to come to the house quickly; I went to the house and we were running along at the time, and I did not have an opportunity of what he wanted me for; he just said "I have a boy who has been hurt." When I got into the house, I found the Mother holding the*

boy in her arms, and he was crying, and it was then that I was told that the Doctor had refused to come to his assistance. I looked at the boy's arm and saw what was the matter - it was dislocated, and I told the Father to hold him when I pulled on his arm and while I was pulling the bone slipped right back into place; we put splints on it and he kept the splints on for three days and nothing further was done and the boy got over the trouble. I met Mr. Galbraith and spoke to him about the Doctor's action, and he seemed to rather justify the Doctor's action by saying - he said that Campbell had criticized the Doctor on several occasions. He said that he had attended one of his children and the child died, and he said that he did not blame the Doctor for not going over to see him.

Q. Who said that?

A. Galbriath. I had no reply from the Government for this reason for shortly after that report went in the Doctor sent in his resignation, and I expect the two letters crossed and reached the Department about the same time.

Q. You say the hospital is closed just now?

A. Yes.

Q. And there is no Doctor there at all now?

A. No.

Q. I suppose as is usual in small settlements that are far away from civilization to have complaints of that sort made?

A. Yes.

Q. And possibly one side of the town pulls against the other very often?

A. Yes.

Q. And I suppose that is the case in Telegraph Creek?

A. Yes.

Q. Now the Indian Chief in giving evidence about the church and the school (reading from evidence) - what have you to say about that school at Tahltan?

A. The school during the time that the Commission was up there was closed; the clergyman himself made the recommendation to the Government in a report that the attendance was so bad and so irregular.

that he thought it advisable to close the school until these people were assembled and then to get a decent school, and I received a letter from the Department in which they told me to close the school on account of the poor attendance.

Q. Sometimes the attendance at the school is regulated by the school teacher - if the teacher is not liked the attendance is not apt to be very good, whereas if he is liked the attendance is large - is that not the case?

A. The attendance at that school is regulated altogether by the food supply. They go out to the woods, and they also go out to catch fish, and during the fishing season most of the Indians are near at hand; I have known the school teacher to open the school during the holiday months when he had them altogether and postpone the ordinary holidays until later on in the year.

Q. You were there in June?

A. Yes.

Q. And the school was not opened then?

A. No, those people were not resident at Tahltan - they hadn't yet come in for the fishing.

Q. And you say the people were not living at Tahltan?

A. No.

Q. What season of the year do they live at Tahltan?

A. During July and August and about the end of September, and then they go out again and stay until about Christmas time.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Did you make a visitation of the Tahltan Reserve and school before you made your recommendation to the Government?

A. Yes.

Q. And the direct result of the decision came to is that the Tahltan children shall be deprived of the means of education?

A. Pro tem.

Q. How are you going to get over it after the pro tem - what do you mean by pro tem?

A. The Indians prior to the war coming on were advanced supplies any money by the merchants of Telegraph Creek when they were going out

to get fur-bearing animals because at that time the fur market was exceptionally good. As soon as the war came on, however, the Hudsons Bay Company cut off all supplies from these Indians and the price of fur came down very low in price and consequently the Indians had to go out and live in the woods because they could not buy at the stores; prior to that they were enabled to get good prices for their fur and consequently could come in and live on the Reserve and so their children could attend school and be educated.

MR.COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do the Indians of the Tahltan Band send any of their children to the school at Telegraph Creek?

A. Only those who are resident.

Q. How many are resident?

A. There are ten or twelve men who got Crown grants in the town of Telegraph Creek and those are the people who send their children to that school.

Q. About how many children?

A. From eleven to fifteen.

Q. Is it a good school?

A. It is a very good school indeed.

Q. Is it a Provincial Government school?

A. Yes, aided by the Indian Department.

Q. What does the Indian Department pay?

A. They pay the schoolmaster \$30.00 a month.

Q. What does the Provincial Government pay?

A. I think \$90.00 but I would not be positive.

Q. Do the children attend school regularly - the ones at Telegraph Creek?

A. In the last year they have not because they have been in and out of town so often.

Q. Do they attend school more regularly than the ones at Tahltan?

A. When the Indians are living in Tahltan they send their children to school very regularly. The people of the Tahltan are more under the authority of the school master but those at Telegraph Creek they come and go as they please.

Q. They seem to be a very intelligent lot of Indians?

A. They are.

Mr. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Did they always in your memory fish during the months of July, August and September?

A. Yes.

Q. So that the fishing season does not interfere with the running of the school?

A. Not at all.

Q. Was that school running during the last fishing season?

A. There was not the same number of Tahltan Indians fishing as usual owing to the fact that those people live largely on imported food; they live on flour, bacon, rice and in fact on the food that a white man generally lives on.

Q. So that they don't depend largely on fish for a livelihood - I mean the Tahltan Indians?

A. No, it is only the older Indians who depend on fish mostly for a living.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Is the fishery at the Tahltan Reserve a good fishery?

A. Very good.

Q. In what period of the year in the anti bellum days did the Indians leave Tahltan to go trapping in order to sell their furs

A. There were a certain number of the Indians who followed up guiding for big game hunters, and they seldom got in before the 15th of October.

Q. When they went out that way did they take their families with them?

A. They would send their families out in the direction in which they themselves went and would meet them on the way coming back. They generally left the Reserve about the 1st of September and would return as I said before about the 15th of October.

Q. How many months would they be absent from Tahltan?

A. Close upon five months.

Q. So that for five months then in the old days they would not be able to keep up a proper attendance at the school?

A. No.

Q. Do you think an industrial school would be a good thing for your

Agency?

A. I certainly do.

Q. Where would be the best point?

A. I think the south end of Dease Lake would be a desirable spot, but from an economical point of view it would be a very expensive place.

Q. Which would be the best place?

A. I should think the Tahltan Reserve would be about as central as any place.

Q. Would that be better than Atlin?

A. The Indians at Atlin are not very far away from that school at Carcross.

Q. That is in the Yukon Territory?

A. Yes.

Q. You think Tahltan Reserve near Telegraph Creek would be the best place to establish an industrial school?

A. Yes.

Q. There would not be very many children to go there?

A. We would have to bring in the children to attend there.

Q. You would not be able to get fifty children at a time to attend an industrial school from all these points?

A. You would be fortunate in getting that many - it would be a new departure that they are not used to.

Q. Which kind of a boarding-school do you think would be the best?

A. I would recommend that it be under the Government completely. The churches have done very good work there as far as I have seen, but there are Indians there belonging to two or three different denominations and for that reason if a school was established I would be in favour of it being under the control of the Government and not under any religious denomination.

Q. How do the Tahltan Indians make their living?

A. Acting as guides to big game hunters, killing moose, fishing, and the selling of furs.

Q. They also, in addition to that, work on the pack trains?

A. Yes, some of them do freighting, some of them will take up mining. They will help at house-building - in fact they will do all sorts of work.

- Q. Have you any idea how much each head of a family of the Tahltan Indians would make acting as guides for these big game hunters?
- A. There is a great difference.
- Q. How much could a good guide make?
- A. I know one man put in forty days and came back with \$450.00 - he got \$10.00 a day, and the man gave him \$50.00 as a present.
- Q. What do they get for packing as a rule?
- A. About \$90.00 a month. It is only when the big game hunters come in that they raise their prices for this kind of work.
- Q. Were there many big game hunters in there this year?
- A. There were about thirteen or fourteen parties in there this year.
- Q. So that the Indians make a comfortable living at this kind of work?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And according to the evidence fish seems to be a principal part of their living also?
- A. Amongst the older people mostly; the younger men never touch fishing.
- Q. Now the Casca and Fort Graham Nomads, they have no Reserves?
- A. No.
- Q. I suppose they have no church?
- A. No.
- Q. Does any missionary ever come to see them?
- A. No.
- Q. Are they Catholic Indians?
- A. Yes, while the missionaries have gone down there and held service with them, their visits have been so far apart that is hard to classify them under any denomination.
- Q. I understood from Bishop Stringer that there was a missionary who attended some of the Indians?
- A. Yes, that is the Teslin Lake Indians.
- Q. Do their children go to school anywhere?
- A. No.
- Q. They have no school?
- A. No.
- Q. Do any of them go to the industrial schools?

- A. No.
- Q. So that they have no religion, no schools, and I don't suppose they have any doctor?
- A. No.
- Q. They are just wild aborigines?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How do they make their living?
- A. By trapping and hunting.
- Q. Do they make a pretty good living in that way?
- A. The Cascas make a fair living. The Fort Graham nomads are poor hunters and they are generally very badly clothed.
- Q. What is the principal fur they get there?
- A. They get beaver and marten principally.
- Q. Do they bring a good price?
- A. Yes, in normal times they do.
- Q. And they get enough money to buy their clothers and tea and tobacco?
- A. In 1913 and 1914 they made good catches and got good prices for their furs and then an order came along to the stores of the Hudson's Bay Company instructing them to cease purchasing furs, and on this account they have not been so well off as they formerly were.
- Q. Do you give any assistance to the old people of the Casca and Fort Graham Nomads?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Are there many of them that you have to give assistance to?
- A. No, there are possibly six or eight that we now and again give relief to.
- Q. What relief do you give them?
- A. We give them provisions, and last year we got an order from the Department to furnish all these men with ammunition.
- Q. But the old people - how much food would you give them in a year?
- A. The only time that they get food is when they come in to a Hudson Bay post, and that would be about three times a year and each time they would get about eight or ten dollars' worth of food.
- Q. So that the utmost amount that these Indians cost the Government in the way of relief does not exceed eighty dollars a year?

- A. It would not be that per capitia.
- Q. But I mean for the whole lot?
- A. Yes, barring the past two years when the Government purchased ammunition for them when the cost went up, I should say about \$300.00 for each band.
- Q. Have these people any established villages anywhere?
- A. The Cascas had years ago about twenty years back houses at McDanes Creek, and scattered through the country here and there they would have a house, but these buildings have always been used more for storing what they possessed. They live mostly out in the open in canvas tents, and in summer they have brush lodges and camp out. When the mining rush was on in the Cassiar country, these people built houses and they mixed up with the miners, and disease got among them and the Cascas lost two-thirds of their population and since that time they have had a great fear of these houses, and they have avoided living in houses as much as possible and now they live out in the open almost altogether.
- Q. The Liard and Francis Lake Indians, have they any religion?
- A. The Nelson River Indians have been under the care of the Roman Catholic Church in the McKenzie River District, and they make periodical trips down there and have their children baptised. They would sometimes be off for three or four years, but they will eventually come down and meet the priest there; and they are never long in any one spot.
- Q. Have they any school?
- A. No.
- Q. Any medical attendance?
- A. No, we ship in medicines down to the interior posts with simple directions on them for use in simple cases.
- Q. Have these Nelson River Nomads any headquarters?
- A. They camp during the summer months at the mouth of the Muddy River; at the junction of the Muddy and Liard Rivers and they trade at the Liard post.
- Q. That is a Hudson Bay post?
- A. Yes.

Q. The Liard and Francis Lake Indians - have they any church?

A. No.

Q. Any Doctor?

A. No.

Q. Does any missionary ever visit them?

A. No.

Q. Then they are pagan Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. Have they no point where they make their headquarters?

A. They have a few houses at the Liard post but that is all.

Q. Now we come to the Atlin and Teslin Lake Indians - what religion are these Indians?

A. I think the bulk of the Atlin Indians are Roman Catholics and the same with the Teslins. There is a missionary that comes down from Whitehorse and holds services there once in a while, and they have a school there as well.

Q. Where is that?

A. At Nasutlan Bay - there is a trading post there.

Q. Haven't the Atlin Indians got a school at Atlin?

A. Prior to my taking charge there was a man by the name of Cox was Agent. The Roman Catholics had a school at Atlin and Cox corresponded with the Government and for some reason or other they closed the school down. I rather think it was on account of the poor attendance; at any rate there was never a recommendation made for the re-opening of it - the missionary never made any application to have the school re-opened. The Rev. Father Allan lives in the Yukon and comes down there once in a while to see them.

Q. They have no Reserve but they make their Reserve on the property the Rev. Father Bunoze in the town of Atlin?

A. Yes.

Q. And they make their living principally by working for the white people?

A. Yes, there is a little hunting and fishing which they follow and they also work about the sawmills sometimes.

Q. They had a comfortable appearance when we saw them?

A. Yes, they are about the average.

- Q. And the Teslin Indians are further away from civilization?
- A. Yes, but they frequent the Atlin District quite a lot, but their village is at Nasutlan Bay and they have their houses there. They have also one or two houses down at the south end of Teslin Lake and at the mouth of the Jennings River.
- Q. Now I have a list here of applications which you have put in?
- A. Yes.
- Q. (Examining application sheet) The first application is at Beckett's Creek (Salmon Creek)?
- A. That is known locally as Salmon Creek.
- Q. 320 acres is applied for?
- A. Yes, that is an old fishing ground, and they fish in a narrow creek not wider than this room, and they fish along there for one and a half and two miles, and each family has his own little camp and they cut their firewood along the valley.
- Q. And the Fishery officers don't interfere with them in their fishing at all?
- A. No.
- Q. You say this has been used regularly by the Indians?
- A. Yes, for ages.
- Q. And you recommend 320 acres there?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What sort of land is it?
- A. Swampy - there are little open spots timbered with cottonwood, but the timber isn't big as all the big timber was burned there many years ago.
- Q. Is it growing up with cottonwood now?
- A. Yes, with second growth of cottonwood.
- Q. Do they smoke and dry their fish there?
- A. Yes, in the Fall of the year they will hook them right out and freeze them, and they make caches and store the fish which they use for dog food during the winter.
- Q. And of course they travel around the country with dogs?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What kind of fish do they catch there?

- A. They catch salmon, coho and humpbacks.
- Q. Would any of that land be good for cultivation?
- A. There is a small patch that is open like a prairie, but it is sandy soil, possibly with water and irrigation it could be used, but I am doubtful about the frost conditions there.
- Q. How would you recommend that that land should be surveyed?
- A. The strip would be possibly half a mile by one mile.
- Q. Now Application No. 2, Upper Tahltan River, at which point 160 acres is asked for?
- A. Yes, that is for fishing entirely.
- Q. Any hay there?
- A. There is no hay there, but they get good grazing there.
- Q. Any timber there?
- A. Principally burnt - there are little patches of green timber but nothing of any consequence.
- Q. Why do you recommend 160 acres if it is only a fishing point?
- A. Because the fishery there is the same as the fishery mentioned in the last application; each family has its own little fishery there.
- Q. Application No. 3, forks of Tahltan, at which point 60 acres is asked for - what about that?
- A. There is a salmon fishery there and that is used every year.
- Q. Do the salmon go up there now?
- A. No, the stream is blocked at that point, and they are not able to go up.
- Q. (Examining map) Where is it blocked?
- A. (Examining map) (Points out where stream is blocked). Prior to the blockade the salmon used to run up there to spawn.
- Q. Do they use that constantly?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why do you recommend 160 acres?
- A. They would have to have that amount of land in order to provide themselves with sufficient firewood.
- Q. Is there any land there good for grazing?
- A. None whatever.
- Q. Application No. 4, village site on Telegraph Creek, half mile from

its mouth - why do you only make a recommendation of 15 acres there?

A. Because I don't think there is any more land to be had

Q. (Examining evidence) The Indians ask for forty or fifty acres - if it could be got would you recommend it?

A. Well taking off where those houses are, there is a road near there and if their holdings were extended any further back we would always be coming in contact with that problem.

Q. You know there is an flume that ran up to a mine near there?

A. Yes.

Q. On which side of the flume does the roadway go?

A. It goes between the ditch and the creek.

Q. (Examining map) Supposing we could get them a Reserve here on this piece of ground, would it not be well that they should have the water right so that they could use that old flume for irrigating purposes?

A. (Examining map) The only time that they would be able to use that flume would be in the summer - yes, that would probably be alright.

Q. In that case would it not be better for the Reserve to take in the old ditch and make a provision for a further right-of-way for the road?

A. Yes, that would be alright.

Q. The Indians represented to the Commission that if this piece of land above the town of Telegraph Creek could be granted to them, that they would in the course of time move out of the town of Telegraph Creek and stay on this piece of land? (Examining map)

A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that would be an advantage to the Indians?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. Because they would be all the time getting into trouble with the people in the town, owing to the fear of filth getting into the stream from which they get their water supply from. You know on that trail going up from the town you saw one cabin that was close to the stream there; an Indian built that, and there was immediately a complaint about him building there and they had to get him to

move away. He had a number of dogs, and it was found that a lot of filth was finding its way into the stream. Of course it was not so noticeable in the winter because the snow covered everything over, but in the summer it was very bad, and we had to take steps to remove him. Up on the bench, however, it would be alright.

Q. (Examining map) Well that is what I mean - we mean to put them up on the bench?

A. That would be quite alright.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Where is the water supply taken from?

A. Just above the bridge.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Are you still of the same mind that you would not recommend more than fifteen acres there?

A. If there was more to be had, I would leave it subject to survey if you could get any more let them have it.

Q. How much would you give them?

A. If they want forty acres give it to them.

Q. Application No. 5, Fishery on the left bank of the Stikine, one-half mile below Telegraph Creek, at which point 80 acres is recommended - what about that?

A. Back of that Fishery there is a strip of land running back to a bench, and on that bench one of the Indians had a garden and he was anxious to get that bench worked in so that it would be all one.

Q. How many Indians use that?

A. Only two.

Q. Why do you recommend 80 acres?

A. For a garden at the back of it.

Q. Is the soil good enough for a garden?

A. The first year we planted it, he got some very good potatoes, but the last two years was frozen out.

Q. Could they grow hay there?

A. No.

Q. I don't suppose anyone else would be likely to dispute their getting that?

A. That is a matter I am not quite sure about as the pack trains leave just from that point. There is one man that has been steadily there

for several years, and the pack trains load up right in front of his place, and of course he never made any complaint, but if a complaint was made it would cause a great deal of trouble. The trail goes up the bank from there, and as it is the only good piece of good flat land in that vicinity the pack trains would have to encroach upon that ground in order to load up.

Q. (Examining map) Could not the pack trains use the other side of the creek?

A. (Examining map) No, because it is on the south side of the Stikine River.

Q. Well this map is incorrect. Where do these pack trains go to?

A. They take freight south for the telegraph wire, and also for the big game hunters that go out there.

Q. Why do you ask for 80 acres at this point?

A. Because he has a garden on a bench right at the back of it and it would take 80 acres to take in the garden and fishery combined. We could run a line below where he actually puts his nets down - as a rule the water right is separate from the land right. You can purchase a land lot but you cannot purchase a water lot and of course it is the water lot that is effective.

Q. (Examining map) Do they put their nets down there now?

A. Only during the salmon run.

Q. They would not put them down at any other time?

A. No.

Q. Do the pack trains have any difficulty there now?

A. None whatever, because the Indians lay no claim to the land, but if it were put into a Reserve then the Indians might say something.

Q. What is your recommendation about that?

A. My recommendation would be to have that survey line - let it run as closely as possible to his fishing station and leave it subject to survey so that one would not interfere with the other.

Q. Application No. 6, Classy Creek, on both banks, 11 miles from its mouth at which point 640 acres is asked for. Is that the place that Mr. H.B. Thompson pointed out to us?

A. No.

- Q. *(Examining map) Where is the Dease Lake trail?*
- A. *(Points out location on map).*
- Q. *This 640 acres - what do they want it for?*
- A. *For hay and grazing.*
- Q. *Is there a meadow there?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *How much is in meadow?*
- A. *There are two meadows there and the first one would cover about one mile by half a mile and the other would cover one mile square; but it is the upper meadow that they want the 640 acre meadow- the lower one is very swampy.*
- Q. *Then you recommend this 640 acres?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *They haven't got many places to cut hay, have they, and keep stock and this would be a good place for them?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *Application No. 7, Shakes Creek, at the junction of Shakes Creek and the Stikine River, at which point sixty acres was recommended?*
- A. *That is an old fishery.*
- Q. *Is this place at Glenora?*
- A. *No.*
- Q. *How far is it from Glenora?*
- A. *Three miles.*
- Q. *How long has it been used as a fishery?*
- A. *That place was claimed years ago by the Indians of Wrangel, who used to come up there and that was their upper boundary; they had a fishery there, and they also gathered berries there, and some of the old signs are there still.*
- Q. *Do the Indians use this at all?*
- A. *Two families moved down there and do their fishing there.*
- Q. *Do they live there?*
- A. *They live at Glenora but they do their fishing at Shakes Creek.*
- Q. *Do you recommend that?*
- A. *I do.*
- Q. *It has been used by them from time immemorial?*

- A. Yes. The record of the first time that that was used by the Indians was lost in the dust of ages.
- Q. The next application is No. 8, Dease Lake, at south end of eastern shore to include the vilage and fishery, and the application is for 320 acres - you know that place do you?
- A. Very well.
- Q. What do you want it for?
- A. The Indians at the present moment have two or three houses there it is a meeting place and a hunting ground, and they fish and hunt from there.
- Q. Is there any land that could be used agriculturally on that place?
- A. I think that land if it could be irrigated would probably raise crops, but the frost has always been our great difficulty in there.
- Q. When does the frost come on?
- A. In August as a rule.
- Q. When does it leave?
- A. The lake is opened about the latter end of May; the snow is off the ground two or three weeks before that, and the frost is out of the ground then; one can start planting potatoes about the 1st of June.
- Q. And when does the permanent frost come on usually?
- A. We are liable to get a frost in June, July or August, and it is heavy frost as that.
- Q. When does the permanent frost come in?
- A. Not until the 1st of October as a general rule.
- Q. Then you could grow between May and October the grasses that resist the frost?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you might possibly be able to grow the more hardy grains, such as barley and oats?
- A. Yes, but the area is very small.
- Q. How many families do you suppose would have locations on this 320 acres?
- A. Every year there are from four to six families passing the spring there, and the early portion of the summer, and then they gather

in there in the early part of the Fall.

Q. Do you think 320 acres is enough?

A. I think so - I don't think there is any more agricultural land there available. Most of this is timbered land - that is covered with scrubby timber.

Q. Application No. 9 of the Tahltan tribe - we will take this place (examining map) called Wilson's ranch on the pack trail between Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake, and there is also some more land there where a man called Larry Martin has his horses. You say that Larry Martin has his horses on the Wilson Ranch?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the size of that ranch?

A. 320 acres - he has been leasing that land. It is owned by a private individual.

Q. Who has been leasing it?

A. Larry Martin.

Q. Who is the private individual?

A. Wilson had a crown grant for this place and the Highland estate bought it from Wilson.

Q. (Examining map) There are two creeks that come in there and the ranch seems to me to cover a great deal more than 320 acres?

A. There is 320 acres there including the ranch, also a large hay swamp where this Larry Martin cuts hay for the last six years to keep from four to six hours. He has been hiring out with the big game hunters as a guide and has got \$2. a day for the use of his horse, and during the summer he has been engaged in packing for the Hudson's Bay Company and Highland over the Dease Lake trail and he has set a very good example to the rest of the Indians, and a couple of years ago I asked the Government to advance money to these Indians to enable them to secure horses to go into the same business, but the whites, who controlled the pack trains, made strenuous objections to that arrangement as they thought there might be a clash between the two elements and I let the thing slide; but personally I think it would be a great help to these Indians if they could have horses at a reasonable figure so that they could go into that trade,

but they would certainly cut into the trade of white people like Galbraith.

Q. Am I correct in assuming from what you said to me on another occasion that Mrs. Highland would be willing to sell the Wilson Ranch?

A. Yes, Mrs. Highland, when I was down here last, gave me the documents relating to this property, but on hearing that the Commission was not purchasing land for the Indians, I did not do any more about the matter.

Q. You are quite right; the Commission has no power to purchase land but we are going to ask you some questions about it - How many acres are there in this ranch?

A. 320 acres.

Q. (Examining map) How does it lie?

A. It has been surveyed by the Provincial Government and a Crown Grant has been issued - it is one of the few pieces of land in that section of the country that has been Crown Granted. It runs along the old trail from Telegraph Creek to Dease Lake at what we call the Toosee bridge just above the crossing. Lately the Provincial Government changed the course of that road turning it into a wagon road - it is now about three miles above Wilson's ranch so it is practically out of the ordinary line of travel to Dease Lake, but it is a good hay swamp and has been used by the Indians, under lease, for the last six years.

Q. What rent do the Indians have to pay for it?

A. I would not be positive but I think it is about \$60. a year.

Q. What does Mrs. Highland want for it?

A. Mrs. Highland told me that she would let the land go for what she paid the Government.

Q. Do you know what that was?

A. I could not say just now - I had all the documents with me when I was here last year but I have returned these to her.

Q. How long has this ranch been taken up?

A. I rather think it was taken up about 1895 or 1896.

Q. I think you could find out from the Lands Office here how much Wilson paid for that ranch?

A. Yes.

Q. And you say that Mrs. Highland would take the amount that Wilson paid for that ranch?

A. She remarked that she would take what they (Highland estate) paid Wilson, and I don't think they paid any more than what the original cost of the land was. She told me that she would sell the land as cheaply as the Provincial Government are selling their lands to-day.

Q. But at the time that ranch was purchased, the Provincial Government was selling land at \$1.00 an acre, and now it charges \$10. an acre for first class land?

A. She has second class land though.

Q. Well second class land is now being sold at \$5. an acre?

A. Yes.

Q. And do you suppose that she would sell it as second class land?

A. I am sure she would.

Q. Are you perfectly satisfied that she would take less than \$5. an acres for this ranch?

A. I think she would.

NOTE: Mr. Scott Simpson was directed to make enquiry at the Dep't of Lands in Victoria and report to the Commission the date in at which the Wilson Ranch was taken up, the classification of the land as to whether it was first, second or third class land and the prices prevailing for such lands at that time. Mr. Scott Simpson handed to the Commissioners a telegram from himself to Mrs. Hyland, the present owner of the Wilson ranch and her reply which are as follows:

"Mrs. J. Hyland, Victoria, Jan'y 1916.
4077 - 17th. St, S. Frisco.

"What is the lowest figure you can take for the Wilson Ranch
"May get Commissioners to consider purchase if your price is
"low, but not otherwise.

W.Scott Simpson, Dominion Hotel."

W. Scott Simpson San Francisco, Jan. 19th, 1916.
Dominion Hotel, Victoria, B. C.

"Would take one thousand dollars for the Wilson Ranch. That is
"far lower than ground can be procured from the Government now
"and it is all surveyed. Did you get letter I sent to Jackmans
"for you. Writing you again tonight.

Winifred Hyland".

Q. Just immediately adjoining this Wilson ranch you say there is a big swamp?

A. Yes.

Q. How big is that swamp?

A. The ranch itself is on the borders of a swamp, and the balance of the swamp would not be more than 1/2 a mile.

Q. That would be 320 acres?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the nature of that land?

A. Boggy land of no value.

Q. Would you recommend the Commission to consider the giving of that half mile of a swamp to the Indians?

A. I would not - I don't think it would be of any value to them. I think outside of the Wilson ranch there is no land there of any use to them. On the creek east of the Wilson ranch there is a packer's camp known as Pleasant Camp, the pack trains come there and turn their stock loose there.

Q. Is it Government land?

A. Yes, and it is one of the few places that pack trains can discharge their cargo and find food for their horses. It is about 3 or 4 miles from Wilson's ranch.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: How many acres of land is used by the pack train horses?

A. Probably thirty to a pack train will roam over ten or fifteen acres of land.

Q. Suppose a man went there, would he be deprived from pre-empting that land that the pack train owners allow their horses to roam over now?

A. I don't see any reason why they should be.

Q. It seems to me that if the pack train people require a piece of land for their use in conducting their business that they should take steps to purchase land from the Government.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: And in your opinion there is no land in this neighbourhood except Wilson's ranch suitable for the Indians?

A. Nothing.

N O T H I N G

- Q. Now there is another place on Tache Creek (Application No. 10)?
- A. Yes, that is another camping ground, but I don't see that there would be anything there that would help the Indians out in any way.
- Q. What is the character of the land on that creek?
- A. It was at one time timbered but a fire having swept over it, it is now covered with small willows.
- Q. If it is covered with willows it shows that the ground must be moist?
- A. It is covered with scrubby willows about two or two and a half feet high and a horse has got to roam over about an acre to get enough to feed him for a night.
- Q. Is there much land covered like that?
- A. There is a flat there that contains about two sections.
- Q. Why do you suggest that the land referred to would be no good for the Indians?
- A. Because I think the land would have to be irrigated.
- Q. Could it be irrigated from Tache Creek?
- A. Yes, but at considerable expense.
- Q. Why do you think it would have to be irrigated, if there are willows growing there?
- A. On account of the quantity of the grass that grows there - they have about thirty horses to a train, and they turn these horses loose three times a month on that land and by September there is nothing for them to feed on.
- Q. How many pack trains go over it?
- A. Two pack trains.
- Q. That would be ninety horses in a month?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you say that ninety horses in a month by the end of September eats off all the grass?
- A. That is right.
- Q. How do the willows grow there?
- A. These scrub willows will grow almost anywhere - they will grow up on high plateaus where there is frost practically all summer; the soil

on that ten mile flat is very sandy.

Q. Would you recommend any land there for the Indians?

A. I would not.

Q. That finishes the Tahltan Band - there are ten applications, and the ten applications amount to less than 2,000 acres. Now we will take up the applications of the Cascas and Fort Graham Indians. Application No. 1, Dease Lake, at the north end on the eastern shore at which point 160 acres is asked for - do you know that place?

A. Yes, it is called the 1-Mile Point.

Q. Is that used by these Indians?

A. The Indians have in the last three years camped at the posts at the N.E. end of Dease Lake, but all that land is now taken up by the Hudsons Bay Company and Hyland, and the only available level spot is this One Mile Point on the opposite shore of Tibbett's Creek.

Q. (Examining map) Is there a post on Tibbett's Creek?

A. Yes.

Q. So the Indians if they get this land would have to cross the lake to get there (examining map)?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it a wide lake?

A. From half a mile to three quarters of a mile.

Q. Is this place that you selected is it good land?

A. I think you could get a few gardens there, but it is a good fishing place.

Q. Is there any good timber on it?

A. Towards the back of the point there is some very good spruce there that would do for their buildings.

Q. If the land on the front of the lake were cleared would it be good for gardens and agricultural purposes?

A. Yes, I think they would be able to get some small garden patches there.

Q. Do you recommend this?

A. Yes.

Q. Now we will come to Application No. 2, McDane's Creek, on right bank of Dease River, (examining map) this place is just opposite the

Point at the confluence of McDane's Creek and Dease River?

A. It is slightly lower down.

Q. Why have you selected that place for the Indians?

A. The present McDane's Creek where the Hudson Bay posts are originally had a dozen Indian cabins. These cabins were built there after the Hudsons Bay Company had acquired the title; Hyland also acquired a title there so that that waterfront is all taken up and Crown granted, but yet the old Indian cabins there and are still in existence.

Q. And you think this is necessary for them?

A. I think they must have some place to put up at when they come to trade at a post and this is very handy for them.

Q. Is it any good for fishing?

A. No, there is no fishing near at hand, you have to go further up the River.

Q. Is there any agricultural land on this 160 acres?

A. Of course it is crude land and in time could be made to grow crops.

Q. Is there any cultivation on this land now?

A. I would not like to say because it is eight or nine years since I have seen it.

Q. Is there any timber on it?

A. There is quite a large portion of it covered with scrubby timber.

Q. What is the actual value of that 160 acres to the Indians?

A. Only as a camping ground and meeting place. They put up caches there in which they store their food and besides they are near a trading post.

Q. Now the Cascas only have a population of 56 - would this be used by the Fort Graham Indians also?

A. Yes.

Q. The whole lot of them only number 86 - that is the two bands combined and the land appears to be absolutely valueless. Would it not be better to give them a smaller acreage there and give a larger acreage where the land would possibly be of some value to them in the future for agricultural purposes?

A. I know of no section in that part of the country where you would be able to get hold of a good piece of agricultural land.

Q. Then you adhere to your recommendation of 160 acres there?

A. Yes.

Q. And you think that is the best we can do for the Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. Application No. 3, on Dease River, below mouth of Rapid River, at which point 160 acres is asked for?

A. That is a meeting place of the Indians - it is a great big flat; it is a large level piece of land used as a camping ground and if there is any possible chance of any land in that section of the country being used for agricultural purposes that is the best spot that I know of; it is level, and if the frosts could be overcome it would be very good land. It looks like a park.

Q. How many acres would this park contain?

A. There is one piece containing 160 acres, and another place contains a little more than that, but I think this 160-acre piece has been formed by the action of the Rapid River undermining the banks further above and bringing the silt down to this point.

Q. Are there any Indian houses there?

A. None.

Q. How can that be definitely located?

A. If a surveyor came down we could guide him to it because it is well known by all the Indians in that part of the country.

Q. How far is that 160 acres from the junction of the rapids of the Rapid River and the Dease River?

A. (Examining map) Three or four hundred yards.

Q. (Examining map) And it is on the west bank of the Dease River?

A. Yes. The 160 acres mentioned in application No. 2 should be so surveyed as to take in the Indian houses. I think there is an reason for holding a piece of land at McDane's Creek and that is that in years to come if there was an increase in the population, that would be a central point for the establishment of a school. The Indians of the McKenzie River District, that is the Fort Nelsons they are gradually drifting in our direction owing to the country being a good game country and it is quite possible that within the next ten or fifteen years that that Indian population might be doubled

by immigration.

Q. You mean to say that they will change their camping ground and come down to McDane's Creek?

A. Yes.

Q. That is that the Indians of Fort Nelson in Treaty No. 8 are inclined to come down to the Stikine Agency?

A. The present band of the Nelson Indians have been gradually drifting in our direction owing to the scarcity of game in their own country. At different points they are joined by other Indians and I think the time will come when the game runs out in their own section of the country that they will eventually drift over to our side.

Q. Into your Agency you mean?

A. Yes.

Q. You know that game shifts their habitat - for instance I remember when moose were most plentiful on Lake Winnipeg - they left that section of the country and they were next heard of north of Prince Albert; last winter I saw in Prince Albert sleighs coming in with I suppose 40 moose, and I understand from the old-timers that they shift off to different points; that is you might see them at one point for a year or so and they will leave and it may be years before you will see them again. Do you think that the game that is in your Agency may not shift off north again?

A. I don't think so because the population is so sparse over that country that it will be a good many years before they are interfered with by large influx of white or other settlers.

Q. When we took the last of these applications for the Casca and Fort Graham Indians, in making your recommendation, are you providing for the Indians that are already there or are you providing for those who expect to come in the future?

A. I am taking both into consideration.

Q. Application No. 3, you make a recommendation of 160 acres?

A. Yes.

Q. Now Application No. 4, Horse Ranch Pass, in which an application is made for 320 acres, and on this particular application I see you have a note that it is grazing land?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that used just now?

A. The Horse Ranch Pass has been known since 1872 as a grazing ground for horses; conditions there are altogether different to what they are in any other section of the country as the fall of snow is not more than six inches. This tract of country lies in a valley running east and west; there are chains of lakes through that valley, and they all contain white fish in them, and in between these lakes are a series of benches and on these foothills bunch grass grows in abundance and there is usually a wind sweeps through there that keeps the snow down so that animals turned loose in the fall of the year will come out in the spring of the year fat and healthy. During the Klondyke rush there were probably eighty horses put in there with bells tied on them to keep the wolves away and at the end of the spring with the exception of one or two that wandered away from the others, they all came out in the very best of condition.

Q. Have these Casca and Fort Graham Indians any horses?

A. The Cascas have five or six and when I last saw them they were as fat as could be.

Q. (Examining map) You have described this country as being in a valley, and according to this map the point that I marked seems to me to be where the Horse Ranch is located, and it looks to me as if it were about eight miles from Dease River?

A. Yes, it would be about that.

Q. If you are going to graze a large number of horses on that, you will need considerably more than 160 acres?

A. If a man had 320 acres there he could let his horses roam over the whole place, and no one would interfere with them.

Q. But we are looking to the future?

A. I am providing for that in another spot.

Q. Do you think it better to have two spots than one?

A. I do - at one spot you can go and cut hay there and there is pea vine and that sort of thing growing there.

Q. And you recommend 320 acres there?

A. Yes, I did not like to ask for any more.

The census of opinion is that they would have additional land there because there is lots of room.

Q. How would it do to cut down application No. 2, McDane's Creek, to 80 acres and add that 80 acres on to the Horse Ranch?

A. I would recommend that.

Q. Would you recommend making Application No. 2, McDane's Creek, 80 acres instead of 160 acres, and making the Horse Ranch 640 acres instead of 320?

A. Yes.

Q. Now Application No. 5, Mosquito Creek, 1280 acres, what is that creek used for?

A. In 1898 there were cattle driven across from the Peace River going into the Yukon and the man driving them over wintered them there and cut hay there for them. He had 18 horses and he turned them loose and he cut pea-vine on which he feed them and he had no difficulty in bringing his cattle through and in the future if they had a chance to go into the cattle-raising business that is about the only spot that I know of that would be of any use to them.

Q. Are there any Indians using that now?

A. There is one Indian with two horses and the Hudson Bay Company have six horses there.

Q. You recommend that in view of the fact that these Indians may in the future become cattle-raisers?

A. Yes, and it would also be good for turning horses out on.

Q. Now we come to the Liard and Francis Lake applications - the first application is at Blue River at the junction with the Dease River, at which 160 acres is applied for. (Examining map) This application appears to be on the north side of the Blue River at its junction with the Dease River - is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that wanted for?

A. At the present moment the Indians have several caches there where they leave their canoes and boats and any supplies that they are encumbered with - it is a camping ground.

Q. What sort of land is it there?

- A. There is a portion of it, possibly twenty or thirty acres, on the borders of the river that is quite flat, level ground, then it runs back into little bluffs and burnt timber where they get their firewood. The soil is of sandy loam.
- Q. Would it be any good for agricultural purposes?
- A. Were it not for the frost it is quite possible that it could be cultivated.
- Q. Could it be irrigated from the Blue River?
- A. I think it could.
- Q. I notice that this application No. 1 is for 160 acres and application No. 2 is for 640 acres, making a total of 800 acres altogether, and the population is 80, that would be ten acres per head?
- A. Yes, but that includes also the Francis Lake Indians.
- Q. What I want to know is whether this land covered in application No. 1 for 160 acres is good for farming purposes?
- A. I think it might if the frosts would not affect it - the land is good but it is subject to frosts.
- Q. Is anyone living in this country besides the Indians?
- A. No one.
- Q. Would it not be better to give them a little more land there - you say there is no one living in that part of the country and don't you think it would be better to give them a section?
- A. I don't know where you could find a section that you could get in one block as there are swamps in between. It is low land and the water lies on it.
- Q. Could you not drain that land either into the Blue River or the Dease River?
- A. You could get it into the Dease River.
- Q. Would that mean the digging of a very long ditch?
- A. No, not very long.
- Q. Do you adhere to your recommendation of 160 acres at Blue River or would you be inclined to recommend more?
- A. If I were to recommend more I would recommend a strip of land along the Dease River lower down.
- Q. How much lower down?
- A. It is very difficult to say - I think it would be within ten miles.

I know there are spots along there that look equally as nice but they are in strips, and it is very hard to get a large area altogether.

Q. Would you adhere to your recommendation here to 160 acres at this point?

A. I would.

Q. Now Application No. 2, Liard, north of and adjoining Hudson Bay Company's post where there is a village and at which point 640 acres is applied for - what sort of land is that?

A. It is sandy loam and a high bench above the river possibly sixty feet high.

Q. Is it good sandy loam?

A. Yes, the Hudson Bay Company grow potatoes there once in a while close to the river, and they sometimes lose them on account of the frost.

Q. Is it very dry in the summer?

A. The rainfall there is pretty fair in the spring, and I never hear of them ever having to irrigate their potatoes.

Q. Could they not grow the more hardy grains such as barley and oats?

A. I think they could.

Q. Have they any houses there?

A. They have about six.

Q. Do they occupy them often?

A. They only use them for storage purposes or when they come into trade. The most of them prefer to camp out.

Q. I understand these people are nomadic?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recommend that 640 acres?

A. I would say that that should be divided between that band and the Nelson Band - I would let the Nelsons have half of that because they camp there when they come in from the south.

Q. You consider that this Reserve No. 2 should be set aside as a Reserve for the Liard, Fort Francis and Nelson Band of Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. With a total population of 166.

A. Yes.

Q. Would that be held in common?

- A. The Francis Lake and Liard are all one Band.
- Q. Do I understand you to say that you would have this No. 2, 320 acres, for the Liard and Fort Francis and 320 acres for the Nelson Band?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you consider that with these Reserves that the Liard and Fort Francis are properly treated with regard to land?
- A. I do, for this reason that the larger portion of their hunting-ground is in the Yukon territory.
- Q. Am I right in concluding from that that it might be better to give them another Reserve in the Yukon territory?
- A. I would say yes.
- Q. Now we come to the application of the Nelson Indians, which is at the junction of the Liard and Muddy Rivers, at which point 160 acres is asked for?
- A. (Examining map) That is also a large flat.
- Q. Have they any houses there?
- A. They are in possession of houses that were built by whites in the early days and abandoned.
- Q. Do they use that Reserve at all?
- A. They use these houses for storing their supplies.
- Q. Have they any gardens there?
- A. None.
- Q. What is the soil like there - is it good for cultivable purposes?
- A. Yes, you can raise potatoes. I have raised potatoes there but I have lost them with the frost. I have had one good year in three.
- Q. Is this not a rich gold producing country?
- A. It has been. Dease Creek, Tibbett's Creek and McDane's Creek in the early seventies turned out large quantities of gold in placer mining.
- Q. Is there quartz throughout that country?
- A. Out towards the Mosquito country there is one of the finest mineral claims in the Province of British Columbia.
- Q. I am asking you these questions because I want to know whether you consider the Indians will be able to get work from these mines later on. Do you suppose when conditions change that these Indians will

be able to get work when these mines open up?

A. I think so - if a railway came through there it would be the salvation of the Indians.

MR.COMMISSIONER SHAW: But what would the railway do?

MR.COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: We now come to the Atlin Lake Indians - you were with the Commission when they visited Atlin?

A. Yes.

Q. And you accompanied the Commission when they visited Five-Mile Point?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you consider that is a good place for a Reserve for the Atlin Indians?

A. I consider a certain amount of that will be necessary for them.

Q. Is there any place that you think will be better for them?

A. (Examining map) On this map I have marked out certain tracts that have been applied for by the Chief of the Atlin Band, Taku Jack.

Q. Application No. 1, McDonald's Lake, at the head of 4th of July Creek for 160 acres - what about that?

A. The piece of land that they have selected there is at the upper end of McDonald Lake, and is at the mouth of a creek that empties into McDonald Lake and is a good place for fishing.

Q. What kind of fish do they get?

A. White fish, trout, greyling and suckers.

Q. At this point where 160 acres is applied, have the Indians any houses there?

A. No.

Q. Do they use it at all?

A. They go there occasionally to fish.

Q. Did the Indians make this application themselves, or did you make it for them?

A. The Chief of the Band made the application.

Q. What is his name?

A. Taku Jack.

Q. What sort of land is it?

A. It is an open prairie place around the mouth of the river.

Q. Could they cut hay there?

- A. *I don't think so, but there is good grazing there.*
- Q. *Could they irrigate it?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *Do you recommend it?*
- A. *I do.*
- Q. *Application No. 2, three meadows near Coleman Lake, one and a half miles north of Atlin, at which point 120 acres is asked for, Has any white man taken up any land there?*
- A. *No.*
- Q. *What do you want that 120 acres there for?*
- A. *Taku Jack has been cutting hay there for the past three or four years on three patches of about forty acres to each patch, and he asked me to have that application put in.*
- Q. *What does he do with the hay he cuts there?*
- A. *He has a horse there and he hopes to have an increase in his stock later on.*
- Q. *Have these Atlin Indians got any livestock at all, outside of dogs?*
- A. *Taku Jack is the only one with a horse.*
- Q. *Any cows?*
- A. *No, no stock of any kind.*
- Q. *So the only livestock they have outside of the one horse, is dogs*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *And you recommend this 120 acres that he cuts hay on in the hope that some day he might have an addition to his stock?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *And you recommend it?*
- A. *Yes.*
- Q. *Application No. 3, Five-mile Point, Atlin Lake, do you consider that is a good place for a Reserve?*
- A. *Yes - here is a notice that Mr. Fraser posted up keeping white people off (here shows Commissioners notice posted up in the Government Agent's office at Atlin by Mr. Fraser, Government Agent, prohibit. white people from trespassing on this piece of land known as Five-mile Point).*
- Q. *Do you recommend that 1230 [120?] acres at Five-mile Point?*

- A. I do.
- Q. Is the land good?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What is the quality of the land?
- A. The land is sandy loam on the outside facing the lake and darkish loam towards the inside.
- Q. Is it easily cleared most of it?
- A. A great deal of it is free from timber at the present time barring a little undergrowth.
- Q. Would it be a suitable place for the Indians to use for fishing as well as agriculture?
- A. I think it would.
- Q. And it is a good safe place for their canoes as well?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That is one of the places in the northern country where a farming instructor would be able to do good work?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recommend that Reserve?
- A. I do.
- Q. Application No. 4, Silver Salmon Lake, 160 acres?
- A. Yes, that is an old fishing ground of the Atlin Indians.
- Q. Do they go there every year?
- A. There are only two or three of them there just now.
- Q. How many of them go there at other times?
- A. There have been twenty or thirty going there annually to put up dried salmon for their winter supply of food.
- Q. Is it safe to say that twenty or thirty Indians will make use of that Reserve?
- A. I think it is.
- Q. Are there any buildings there?
- A. Nothing but salmon drying houses made out of poles.
- Q. What is the quality of the land?
- A. I cannot really say - I have passed by but I could not actually say what the land is like - it is a very pretty spot.
- Q. What is the timber like?
- A. There is quite a lot of burnt timber there and there are a few

little spots containing half an acre or so of green timber that happened to escape when the fire went through there.

Q. Is the timber of fair size?

A. I would say it was eight inches or so - second growth.

Q. So that they have plenty of dry wood there for firewood?

A. Yes.

Q. And you recommend this as a fishing-station?

A. Yes, they asked me to put that in.

Q. Do you think 160 acres is too much or is it enough?

A. I don't think that less would be adequate.

Q. Application No. 5, at the junction of the Silver Salmon Creek and Taku River, 80 acres (examining application sheet) - I see that there is a note that there is a village there?

A. Yes, an old village.

Q. How many houses are there now ?

A. About half a dozen of very old buildings there.

Q. Do they use these houses now?

A. This is the head of navigation up the Taku and it has always been an old camping-ground and village. Before Atlin was established they used to do their trading at Juno.

Q. Both application No. 4 and 5 would be on the road of the proposed railway into Atlin from Juneau?

A. Yes.

Q. What sort of soil is there on this 80 acres?

A. I don't know I have never seen it.

Q. Do you know anything about the timber there?

A. No - quite possibly it is spruce and poplar.

Q. Do you think this is necessary for the Indians?

A. I think it will be necessary for them.

Q. Now Application No. 6 at the south end of Teslin Lake, north of H. B. Company's post, a village and fishery containing 160 acres - do you know that place?

A. Yes.

Q. Is this used at all by the Indians just now?

A. They only got places that they cache away their stuff in - they don't actually live there.

- Q. Don't they use these shacks?
- A. Yes, they do.
- Q. How many of these shacks have they?
- A. I don't know now - they had when I last saw it about six.
- Q. Do they go fishing there?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do they cultivate any land there?
- A. None.
- Q. Is the land capable of bearing anything?
- A. I doubt it.
- Q. Why- is it too cold?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is there any timber there?
- A. Yes, there is some scrubby spruce there.
- Q. Is there any timber that they use there for smoking their fish?
- A. They have black pine and willow.
- Q. Do they generally smoke their fish with that sort of wood?
- A. They just dry their fish - they don't smoke them.
- Q. Do you recommend that place?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Application No. 7 on Teslin Lake at the mouth of Jennings River, 160 acres - why do you recommend that?
- A. That is another fishing and gathering point.
- Q. What kind of fish do they catch there?
- A. Principally white fish and lake trout.
- Q. How big does the lake trout run?
- A. I have heard that they catch them weighing up to six and seven pounds.
- Q. Is there any timber at this place?
- A. Yes, some would be possibly eight inches through - it is spruce. timber; close to the borders of the lake it is spruce.
- Q. Does it grow high?
- A. It grows as high as sixty and seventy feet.
- Q. Is the soil any good there?
- A. It is sandy soil.
- Q. And you recommend that as being necessary for their use?

- A. Yes.
- Q. Application No. 8 on the western shore of Teslin Lake, 160 acres, (Examining map) that is just where the trail to Atlin touches the lake on the south side of the trail?
- A. That piece I have never seen - it has only been suggested by the Indians themselves.
- Q. What do they want it for?
- A. As a fishing and camping ground and also for wood.
- Q. And there are about 70 Indians there - do you recommend that for them?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Application No. 9, Nishtlan Bay, Yukon Territory, 640 acres?
- A. Yes, they have a village there.
- Q. This is in the Yukon Territory?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you recommend 640 acres there I see?
- A. I don't know the place - I only have a description of the place from a man trading there, and he seems to think that it might be utilized for gardens.
- Q. You have never seen this place?
- A. No.
- Q. Do I understand that you recommend that application?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Would you tell me why you recommend it?
- A. Because the Indians have a village there and they are in a bay which is well sheltered - it is a place that they have selected themselves and from what I can learn the land there is suitable for gardening purposes but of course like all the land in that section of the country you have got to contend with the frost.
- Q. What is the name of the firm that has a store there?
- A. Taylor & Drury of Whitehorse.
- Q. And you would recommend (examining map) 640 acres adjoining the site of Taylor & Drury's store?
- A. Yes, subject to survey.
- Q. The Commission was informed by Bishop Stringer that this point was the main point of residence for the Teslin Lake Indians - do you

concur with the Bishop in that statement?

A. That is correct.

Q. And you would recommend that 640 acres be set aside there for these Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. I think we have dealt with all the applications of these Indians so far and you think that is all that we are called upon to deal with?

A. Yes.

Q. When the Commission was in the Stikine Agency they told the Indians at the various points that if they had any further requests to make they could make them to you. These applications that we have dealt with today, are they the applications that the Indians made since we were there?

A. They cover the Tahltan, Teslin and Atlin Lake applications but the Interior Indians would take no notice of it at all - they remarked "Why what did they want any lands for, they own the land as it is what do we want any land for".

Q. Now dealing with these Interior Indians, I would ask you do you think if the Commission recognized these applications, do you think the Commission would be doing its full duty by these Interior Indians?

A. I think not - I think that their method of living would have to be gone into. For instance if white men are allowed to come into that country and trap independent of the Indians it will only be a few years before those Indians will have nothing at all to live on because the white men have more up to date appliances for catching game than what the Indians have and it will be years before we can get the rising generations to adopt more civilized methods and means of living.

Q. You understand that this Commission only has power to deal with lands?

A. Yes.

Q. This commission cannot interfere with the rights of white men to trap or with the feeding of the Indians; and therefore my question related to lands - do you consider that this Commission has done

[p.80] all in its power with regard to the interior Indians as to additional lands?

A. I do.

Q. Is there anything that has been left out or is there any statement you desire to make to the Commission?

A. As the Commission is only dealing with the land question, I have nothing further to say.

Q. If you wish to make any remarks with regard to policy you may do so; I would like however to ask you in the first place as to your Agency - is it too large for you to get over?

A. Not at all.

Q. It is in a way an easy Agency to get over on account of the water?

A. During the summertime yes.

Q. Do you think that it would be better for the administration of Indian affairs in this Province if a head office were established in Victoria with an officer with full powers to act in directing the Agents and answering their questions?

A. I am not prepared to express an opinion. The administration of the Department under Mr. Scott has been very satisfactory so far as I know. Every document that goes there is quickly replied to and we get every satisfaction; as far as I am concerned I don't wish for anything better.

Q. Have you any remarks that you would like to make to the Commission regarding the policy of administering the affairs of your Agency?

A. I should like to see in that Agency a technical school established where these young men could be taught the different trades such as carpentering and blacksmithing, shoemaking and the like. They are a bright, intelligent bunch of Indians in there and they take to all aspects of work rapidly. They are a very ambitious lot of Indians and I think if we had a technical school and the children were put in here and given some encouragement that better citizens would be made of them and they would be useful men in that country because even now without practically any technical education at all they can turn their hands to almost anything.

Q. I understand as far as industrial schools are concerned that you consider that a school of that sort established at the south end of Dease Lake would meet the whole of their requirements of the Tahltans

the Cascas, the Liards and the Nomad Bands?

A. I do.

Q. And you consider that the Industrial School at Carcross should be made to provide for the Atlins and the Teslin Lake Indians?

A. Yes.

Q. Consequently that would only mean the building of one additional school and the enlargement of the Carcross School?

A. Yes.

Q. And you consider the establishment of the Dease Lake school is one to be undertaken after the war?

A. Either at Dease Lake or Tahltan - if a school were established at Tahltan it might be run far more economically than one if established at Dease Lake. I would go in for a building with a good basement - a cement basement, and also a good furnace - in other words an up to date modern building built with lumber.

Q. When you are advocating a good modern building steam heated, I presume you mean to have cold and hot water for washing and bathing in?

A. I do.

Q. Suppose you took these children who have been used to running all over the country and living in the woods and put them in a school of that kind, say from six to sixteen years of age and then turn them loose again do you think you would be doing them a kindness

A. I think that once they tasted the fruits of civilization they would not want to go off again and live in the woods. I had a conversation with the Principal in charge of the school at Sitka - the Sheldon-Jackson school it is called, and he told me that their aim was to have these young people married as young as possible, but the trouble was that the girls, after they had received a fair education, they wanted a white man, and if they could not marry a white man they would run off with him anyhow. This he told me was his experience.

Q. There are some falls in the Stikine river about 20 or 30 miles above Telegraph Creek. I understand these falls are about 30 feet high, and beyond these falls there are numerous branches feeding the Stikine river that make admirable spawning grounds for the

salmon. Don't you think that if there was some sort of an arrangement made there at this fall, such as a ladder - a fish ladder constructed so that the fish could get up that it would be a good thing?

A. There is one place that I recommended to the Government; that is one of the branches of the Stikine, and that is called Tooyea, where I advocated the building of an arrangement similar to one mentioned by you. There is a large slide that has come into the river from the face of the mountain and it prevents the fish from getting up. I am told that years ago the salmon used to go and spawn in Tooyea lake some ninety miles further up and it is also a good hunting ground up there.

Q. Could you give me any idea- as to how much it would cost to remove the obstacle in the river that you mention?

A. I could not - I would have to go over the ground and make an examination before I would be in a position to give you a proper answer.

Conclusion of meeting.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MEETING at the Board Room, Victoria, with Mr. JAMES PORTER, Former
Provincial Government Agent at Telegraph Creek

on Wednesday, March 22nd, 1915

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: (Item No. 10) Could you make us a statement about that Tache Creek which you call Eight Mile Creek as to the land there - is there any land taken up by white settlers there?

A. Not when I left the country - I left in 1911.

Q. And there haven't been many white settlers in there since?

A. No.

Q. How much land do you think you could get there for the Indians either agricultural, grazing or any land that they would likely require?

A. Quite a piece could be got there providing the long part would reach down along the Tanzilla River.

Q. Whereabouts along the Tanzilla River would be the best place to get the land?

A. I never looked over that ground with that end in view, hence I might be leading you quite astray in recommending any land there because I don't know much about the country.

Q. Could you give us a general idea?

A. I have not been up the creek for any distance - therefore I am not prepared to make a statement but where the trail crosses it is not more than two or three hundred yards wide - there are patches of fairly good land there but on the whole the soil is sandy.

Q. Would irrigation make anything grow on that sandy ground?

A. Yes, in that country, if you have sandy soil and you have water to irrigate it with it is surprising what crops you can grow because there is so much daylight and vegetables will grow there much faster than here. The seasons are so short that the crops must grow quick and stuff grows there at night just as quick as it does in the day.

Q. You can't give us very much information about that piece?

A. No, I have passed there quite often but from what I have seen it is a pretty little place, but I certainly don't think there is very much good agricultural land or any land that could be cleared

and called good agricultural land.

Q. Your successor in office was Mr. Harry Dodds?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Thompson advised us to write to Mr. Dodds as he thought he knew that particular piece of land - we wrote to him but so far have had no reply?

A. The mails up in that part of the country are very uncertain - the mail might be delayed perhaps two weeks from Atlin to Telegraph Creek.

Q. Do you know anything about Items Nos. 1, 2 and 3?

A. (Ex. Tabulation Sheet) I have only been over Hackett's Creek in the wintertime when it was all frozen over and the same with Tahltan Forks - the Tahltan Forks country is a sort of rolling bunch grass country.

Q. (Item No. 4) When Dr. McKenna and I were at Telegraph Creek the Indians said they wanted some land above the town on the left bank of Telegraph Creek - we walked up there by the graveyard and we also walked up near the Casca Ranch and saw where the Indians were building some houses; back from the houses there was an old flume and the Indians made an application for about forty acres or so at that point - can you give us any information about this piece of land so that Mr. Green may be able to more clearly define its location on his map for the requirements of the Land Office here?

A. I know the place very well; the Indians have had huts on it for the last twenty years and have been occupying them and on a few occasions they created quite a nuisance by their washing their blankets in the creek, and on a few occasions I was obliged to go up and stop them and tell them that they should not do such things. It appears to me that should the Indians have a right there it would not be altogether fit and proper for the white people of Telegraph Creek because they use the water from Telegraph Creek, and the Indians if they were there they would naturally do the same thing in the creek that I have just told you and that would not be very desirable for the white people. Very often they will

soak skins and wash clothers in the water that supplies Telegraph Creek with drinking water, and I am satisfied that the white residents would object very strongly to the establishment of an Indian Reserve at that point.

Q. Presuming that the Indians were given a piece of land on the left bank of Telegraph Creek so as to keep them in a certain distance from the creek and they were given water for all their washing and all the purposes that they require water for through that old flume, would that relieve the objection?

A. It should do so. If they were to get their water through a flume and they were told that they could not have anything to do with the water in the creek below I don't see that any great harm could be done, but I know this that I have lived close by Indians all my life and I know they are filthy people; they don't seem to think that there is any harm at all in urinating in any stream that they know supplies water to white people. They are a very, very careless lot of people and whether they could be made to keep away from the creek and all that sort of thing that would be another question.

Q. Don't you think that comes from the fact that these people have had no settled home and they have been wandering about the country and therefore perhaps they are not more careless than any community of white people placed in the same position?

A. Quite likely - they are getting more civilized all the time and very probably if they were kept under control they would not do anything to make the water impure for domestic use.

Q. Does the Indian Agent reside at Telegraph Creek?

A. Yes.

Q. And if that is so it would only take him ten minutes or so to walk up there and see that everything is alright - as a matter of fact there are a few houses there now and I don't think there have been any complaints?

A. That is quite correct - they are squatting there. That old flume about which you are speaking was used for placer mining on the Stikine River and is about half a mile up from Telegraph Creek.

Q. If the Indians were to use that flume the water would have to be

taken into the Stikine River - it could not return again into Telegraph Creek.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: The flume that I have in my mind is the flume that supplies the people of the village - I cannot see how the Indians on forty acres of land is going to hurt the water in Telegraph Creek?

A That is a flume built since I was there - originally we had a reservoir on the hill right where the hospital now stands on which we had a pressure box which brought the water down to the town - the flume that you are speaking of is a flume built since I was there, and as far as running water in flumes and rushing the overflow into the Stikine River is concerned, there is not enough water in Telegraph Creek to do that; in dry seasons the water in Telegraph Creek runs very low and at times there is hardly enough water to supply the residents that are there.

Q. Would that be a matter to be gone into later by the Government?

A. Yes, I would say it was and they should also see what amount of water could be run because that old flume has not been used for many years - the last time it was used was about eighteen years ago when it was used for irrigating potatoes - since then it has not been used.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Did they get a good crop of potatoes?

A. Yes, they grew very good potatoes on the whole.

Q. There is only one little bit of the flume coming into the ditch?

A. Yes, there is only one piece of flume, but I don't think it would be any great difficulty to bring water down there but the thing is is there sufficient water in the creek - if a lot of Indians went and camped there they would require quite a lot of water. of course it is alright in seasons when there is no shortage of water but I have seen some very dry summers there when the water gets extremely low.

Q. Would it be difficult to make a dam?

A. I don't think it would but it would be dangerous to the town unless it was properly constructed as it might break and wash the town into the seas.

- Q. It would not require a very big dam would it?
- A. No; no doubt in the future there will be a dam constructed there to store the water above the falls - it would be very easy to build the dam at the falls and make a reservoir and that is the water that should be got for the Indians if they get the land that you speak of.
- Q. Am I right in believing that an old miner's ditch comes from the falls?
- A. No, it comes from above the falls - I would think about 300 yards above the falls.
- Q. And that would not interfere with the dam would it?
- A. No.
- Q. So the town could put a dam there and it would not interfere with the falls?
- A. No, if I had the plan of the whole thing and plenty of money to work with I would make a dam at the falls and let everyone get the water from there - there is a natural dam there which is like a strata of lava as it were going across and the creek has cut through it.
- Q. And all you would need to do would be to simply fill that up?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How wide is that cut?
- A. I don't think it is any more than about ten feet.
- Q. How deep?
- A. Probably to the top of the falls - probably some 12 feet.
- MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: What would you estimate to be the area above the creek that we have been discussing that is taking the two flats there?
- A. I don't think I would want to buy more than about 20 acres there and expect that I would have fairly flat land - that is between the two terraces; it is all rolling hills at the back and there is very little flat land to be had. Then just back from those Indian houses on the land that we are talking about there are some little ponds - we used to call them the Pasture Lakes where we used to pasture horses easterly from those houses.
- Q. Talking about the interests of the town of Telegraph Creek, you

know there are some Indian houses right down by the creek that are not on the Reserve at all?

a. Yes.

Q. And some that are in and perhaps some that are outside of the Townsite?

A. Yes.

Q. Now these houses are close to the creek?

A. Yes.

Q. Now it would seem to me that the pollution of the creek is more likely to occur from the Indians that I refer to than it would be if they were up on the benches?

A. But the water is picked up further up and carried down by a flume - that only applies to the summer; in the wintertime the water was taken from the creek and it was only at this time of the year that the trouble that I speak of occurred.

Q. The flume that takes the water takes it up in the direction of the Casca Ranch?

A. When I left there the flume that I helped to build that water was picked up on the Townsite not more than 400 yards above the mouth of Telegraph Creek.

Q. And in so picking it up it picked it up considerably below the Indian houses?

A. Yes, and I have had to send up a Constable to bring them to account for polluting the water.

Q. Don't you think it would be better for the Indians and for the whites if there was a Reserve up on that hill and have them removed from the town?

a. Of course it would but they own their property, but at the same time I think it would be better if they were to remove up there because it would be better for the whole place. Not only that but there is some fairly good timber up there where they now get nearly all of their firewood from.

Q. Item No. 5, 80 acres, more or less, on the left bank of the Stikine River, approximately half mile below Telegraph Creek - what about that?

A. An Indian by the name of Dandy Jim has been fishing there for a good

many years.

Q. Did he have a garden there?

A. Yes, but it was about 200 yards back from the river - he used to grow potatoes there - I don't think that that is the land that is meant in the tabulation - I think the land that is meant is an old field that Mr. Galbraith used to cultivate; it would be about half a mile below Telegraph Creek above the south forks between the south forks and Telegraph Creek.

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: Would a Reserve there of 80 acres, should it be square by lengthways to the river - how are the mountains?

A. They rise up to a height of about 500 feet and you might call it a plateau up to the south forks; if I have anything to say about that I would say a square.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: (Reading from evidence given by Indian Agent W. Scott Simpson): Mr. Simpson says that there are only two Indians using that and they wanted 80 acres there on account of the garden at the back of it?

A. That is Dandy Jim's garden and besides that the present trail is on that land.

Q. Of course we couldn't give them the trail?

A. You met Mr. Galbraith I presume?

O. Yes.

A. Mr. Galbraith is the king of that trail and of the packing rights around there, and I don't know whether he would want to be interfered with.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do you think this recommendation of Mr. Scott Simpson to have that survey line run as closely as possible to his fishing station and leave it subject to survey so that one would not interfere with the other (quoting from evidence) Do you think that would leave the place for the packing trains undisturbed?

A. I think that would be alright.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: How many acres would that be about?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Eighty acres.

(TO Mr. ASHDOWN H. GREEN) Do you think you could indicate that

roughly on a plan?

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: I think I could especially if I could get-the north and south points.

NOTE: Mr. Green to make a description of that as Mr. Porter suggests to exclude the trail and the landing place at the back should it go on either side.

Q. Item No. 6 for 640 acres, more or less, on both sides of Classy Creek, approximately 11 miles from its mouth - do you know anything about that application?

A. I cannot say that I know that creek at all.

Q. Application No. 7 for 60 acres more or less, on Shakes Creek, 3 miles from Glenora, at the junction of Shakes Creek with the Stikine River?

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: That is Crown granted - it is on Lots 23 and 25.

NOTE: Mr. Green to confer with Lands Department regarding this application.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Would a Reserve on the Stikine River be any good to them and not on Shakes Creek at all?

A. I don't see what they want land there for because it is all hills.

Q. They say they want it for a fishing station?

A. It is all hills - the place referred to was an old American Indian fishing place; they had been in the habit of coming and fishing there every season and staying there up to until about 1894 or 1895 and about that time a man who had a B.C. Mining License, hence had a right to prospect and mine went there at the mouth of Shakes creek and commenced placer mining and washing; he packed the water up out of Shakes Creek and was working there when the Indians arrived from the Coast; immediately upon their arrival they began pitching their camps there and they objected to him being there saying that he was injuring them and also that he was making the water dirty and that the fish were not coming up the stream as they formerly did; it went on from bad to worse until there was quite a row about it and they cut away his dams; he finally appealed to the British Columbia authorities and I made a trip down there and when I saw what the trouble was I said that the white man was in the right and the Indians were entirely in the wrong because they were American Indians. The Chief happened

to be there (Chief Stakes) and I told him he had no right there and also that I would protect the white men who was in British Columbia and had a Mining License and that the Indians had no right there at all, so I told them that if they interfered with the white man that I would certainly punish them for it and I also told the, Indians that they would have to vacate the place in so many days which they did from which time there was no more trouble.

Q. Is it a Canadian Indian Fishery?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the Canadian Indians of that district in the habit of using that place?

A. According to the Indian law before the whites came to the country - this country was only discovered in 1872 - and prior to that the Tahltan and the Stikine Indians would go there and although it was in British Columbia and thirty miles down to the Coast the Tahltan Indians thought they had no right to go down there and they always fished at the mouth of Shakes Creek and the Indians on the Coast controlled the Fishery.

Q. Application No. 8, for 320 acres more or less, on the eastern shore at the south end of Dease Lake, to include the Indian village and fishery - supposing we gave them 320 acres there could we have it surveyed so as to preserve the steamboat landing?

A. I think so; I think the Indians have the most desirable locality there; and I don't see very well how it could be surveyed to leave the best steamboat landing out and give them what they are asking for.

MR. COMMISSIONER MGKENNA: How much could you give them there so as to preserve the steamboat landing?

A. By running it back they could have what they are asking for.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Does the village occupy the whole waterfront?

A. I don't know what has been built there in the way of houses because I left there in 1911.

Q. If the waterfront for these two houses were given the Indians and some land behind that would not interfere with the steamboat landing?

A. I would not think so.

Q. Are the houses referred to on what is now regarded as the steam-boat landing?

A. I could not say because I don't remember - I think it would be rather a difficult matter to give the Indians the land they are asking for without giving them the best landing.

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: Could you not knock off ten acres and let the Indians have the land all around it?

A. Yes, I suppose you could.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do you think from your recollection of the situation that an adequate landing place at the point could be preserved for the public without interference with the two Indian houses that were there when you were there?

A. I think probably it could.

Q. Suppose we were to allow the Indians in this locality this acreage of land to include the houses but to exclude an area of twenty acres for a boat landing with ingress and egress to that twenty acres - do you think that would suit the case.

A. I think it would.

Q. Item No.15 for improved land and fishery of Indian Packer Johnnie at Laketon on Dease Lake (here reads extract from evidence given by Indian Agent Scott Simpson).

A. That should be Packer Tommie and not Packer Johnnie. He is married to a Casca woman but Packer Tommie is a Fraser River Indian and came across with cattle in 1874 or 1875 and settled in that country.

Q. Is there a Packer Johnnie?

A. Yes, he lives at Telegraph Creek but Packer Tommie has been living around Dease Lake for years while Packer Johnnie has never lived there.

Q. Do you think twenty acres would suit him?

A. Yes, but Laketon is an old townsite.

NOTE: Mr. Green to look into this and see what we can do there Say from five to twenty acres.

WITNESS (continuing) Laketown was the central point of that country until 1898 but now it is deserted - up until that time it was the most interesting point; the Government Agent's office was there and

although I won't say that any town lots were purchased there still at the same time it was surveyed as a townsite; I am pretty sure however that no lots were purchased there.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Was it alienated by the Province?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it a Provincial Townsite?

A. I could not say.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Item No. 16 for 160 acres, more or less, at the north end of the eastern shore of Dease Lake at I-Mile Point, opposite Tibbett's Creek (here reads extract from evidence) - what have you to say as regards that application?

A. I do not see that there would be any objection whatever in granting their request there.

Q. Do you know that place?

A. Yes, there is very little land there - the mountains arising abruptly from the lake - it is only used for a fishing station and gardens.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: HOW many acres do they want?

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: 160 acres.

WITNESS (continuing): It is just a delta formed by a stream running into the lake.

Q. Item No. 17 for 160 acres more or less (subsequently reduced by Agent during examination) to 80 acres more or less on the right bank of Dease River at the confluence of McDane's Creek therewith; (here reads extract from Agent's evidence)?

A. I am afraid I do not know anything about that at all.

Thursday March 23rd, 1916.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Item No. 18 for 160 acres more or less, on Dease River (west bank) below the mouth of Rapid River and near the junction of Rapid River with the Dease - do you know that place at all?

A. Only by passing it in a boat - I have never been on the shore there; I know the locality mentioned but only through seeing it while on board of a boat.

Q. What is your idea of its being a good situation for the Indians?

A. I think it is an ideal place - there are places along the Dease River which no doubt would be very good for settlement as there are

some very nice flats close to the river.

Q. And I suppose the best way to pick out this 160 acres is for the Indians or Indian Agent to show the surveyor where to get it?

A. Yes, they have houses there - there are a few very nice flats along the Dease River which no doubt in the future when the country becomes settled up will be taken up for agriculture - they have a very light snowfall which I would estimate to be not more than two feet on the average.

W. What do you think of the agricultural possibilities of that country?

A. Not very bright because the good patches of land are confined to the river bank - back of it is very hilly.

Q. That is very much the same as the Fraser River country?

A. Yes.

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: Is it a good agricultural place?

A. No.

Q. Would it grow grain?

A. Yes, I think it would - they have grain cereals at Liard Post - I think they have grown wheat there also.

Q. Items No.19 for 320 acres more or less at Horse Ranch Pass, subsequently increased by Agent (during examination) to 640 acres more or less - do you know that place?

A. Yes, that is the best stock ranch in the whole of that country until you get out on the Muddy river where I believe the country is very open.

Q. That is where the Hudson Bay Company had a store?

A. Yes, they had a post at the mouth of the Muddy River. The Hudson Bay Company never traded there, but there is a place at Mosquito Creek. The Horse Ranch is the best stock ranch in the Cassiar country.

Q. How much land is there there fit for cultivation?

A. I don't know but it is rather hilly and resembles very much those hills around Kamloops - the snowfall there however is light,

Q. How much of that range land do you think should be given to these Indians because as you know they have no land at all?

*A. although I have been a strong advocate for protecting the Indians [p.95]
all my life at the same time I don't think it is [p.96]*

good policy to

give them too much land.

Q. If it is a good range country and these Indians are to be encouraged in becoming cattle raisers, how much of this class of land do you think we should give them?

A. Unfortunately it is not very large and to give the Indians all the choice part of it would probably be giving them the whole thing.

Q. How much is contained in the choice part?

A. I don't think the whole thing would exceed 500 acres.

Q. (Ex. Evidence) Mr. Scott Simpson says there is about five miles of it?

A. Six hundred acres would really give the whole of that away to the Indians. Now the Hudson's Bay Company have for several years past wintered their horses there at the mouth of McDane's Creek for the purpose of conveying freight up the creek and should the Indians have the sole right there they would bar the Hudson Bay Company from wintering their horses there and should this condition of affairs take place it would work an awful hardship on them.

Q. Do you know this place well?

A. No, I do not; I don't claim to know it well. All that I know about it has come to me through heresay - I had been acquainted with a lot of people who have been in there trapping and from all that I have heard about it I do not think it is quite as extensive as it is represented to be. According to Mr. Simpson's evidence it is a valley five miles in extent. What does he give the width of it. He described the country as being a series of chains of lakes with foot hills all around it between the lakes - this tract of country lies in a valley running east and west - there are chains of lakes through that valley containing white fish and in between these lakes are a series of benches and bunch grass grows in abundance and there is usually a wind sweeps through there that keeps the snow down so that animals turned loose in the fall of the year will come out in the spring of the year fat and healthy; during the Klondike rush there were probably eighty horses put in there with bells tied on them to keep the wolves away and at the end of the

Spring, with the exception of one or two that wandered away from

the others, they all came out in the very best of condition.

Q. (Quoting from evidence) He says in another place that it is about six or eight miles from Dease River and I understood him to say that the whole of that six or eight miles was such that if one mile was taken out of the eight that it would not work any hardship on the place?

A. Mr. Simpson knows a great deal about that country because when he was trading at the mouth of McDane's Creek and Liard, they used to leave the freight boat and begin packing their stuff across. It is only twenty miles from the Dease to McDane's Creek and Mr. Simpson has very very often been through that particular section of the country and I would not like to dispute what he has said about it.

Q. He says that white fish are abundant in the lakes and according to that those lakes must be pretty large because you can't catch white fish in small ponds?

A. Yes, there are lots of fish in those lakes I know - I have never been on the lakes myself - I have only seen them from the top of the mountains.

Q. Item No. 20 for 1280 acres, more or less - on Mosquito Creek, and this is what Mr. Simpson says about it: "In 1898 there were cattle driven across the the Peace River flowing in to the Yukon and the man driving them over wintered them there and cut hay there for them - he had 18 horses and he turned them loose and he cut pea-vine on which he fed them and he had no difficulty in bringing his cattle through and in the future if they had a chance to go into the cattle raising business that is about the only spot that I know of would be of any use to them; he also says that one Indian has two horses and the Hudson's Bay Company have six horses there and he recommends this place in view of the fact that these Indians may in the future become cattle-raisers - do you think that is a good place?

A. I have never been there - as I said just now I believe it is an excellent grazing country and also a place where wild hay can be cut is stated in the evidence by Mr. Simpson. It is probably one of the best grazing country in British Columbia and even agri-

culture from all I have heard about it.

Q. Mr. Simpson says the Hudson's Bay Company have six horses there; if we took 1280 acres out of that there would still be land enough left for the Hudson's Bay Company's horses?

A. Yes, I should think so.

Q. Is it a large country?

A. Yes, it is very large.

Q. You don't think that the giving of 1280 acres there would be causing any inconvenience to the white settlers?

A. Of course it is a large piece of land.

Q. But if you are going to make the Indians cattle-raisers you have got to give them the land?

A. In giving so much of the land away to the Indians the future of the country must be taken into consideration and it might be a means of frightening away white people when they hear that the Indians have acquired all the best parts of the country.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: That would have happened in Saskatchewan and Alberta, but still you won't hear anyone complaining?

A. The whole of that country will never be worth a snap until a railway comes in and taps it with the Yukon and Northern Alaska. and should such a railway ever come it will no doubt pass through that country.

Q. The only railway that we know of that will go near there is the P.G.E. In Treaty No. 7 they have Reserves containing as much as 52,000 acres and in Treaty No. 6 they have even larger Reserves; You have got to take into consideration the fact that the Indians must make a living because when the white population comes in the Indians will naturally lose their own ways of making a livelihood.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Item No. 21 for 160 acres, more or less, on the north side of Blue River at its junction with the Dease River. This location is recommended for the Indians by Mr. Scott Simpson for the reason that they have several caches there where they leave their canoes and boats and any supplies that they are encumbered with - it is a camping ground - do you know that country?

A. No, only by going along the river that is all. As I have already said these places evidently are the best locations along the river

that they are asking for. Those Indians are fairly well educated.

Q. Now, particularly as regards looking after No. 1, and these are the best patches along the river.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: I don't think the Indians asked for them - I think Simpson asked for them because he could not find the Indians. He made inquiries after which he made the selections?

A. They know the very best places throughout the whole country and Mr. Simpson is also very familiar with them because he has been up and down the river scores of times and knows all these places very well.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Item 21B for 320 acres along Dease River, approximately ten miles below the confluence of the Blue River herewith (here reads extract from Agent's evidence) . Do you know that country Mr. Porter?

A. No, I don't. I camped along the river a few times there but I can't say that I know anything about it.

Q. Item No. 22, for 640 acres more or less, on the Liard River, north of and adjoining the Hudson's Bay Company's Post where there is a village?

MR. ASHDOWN H. GREEN: In olden days I came across a bluebook containing a list of all the Hudson's Bay Company's Posts, but unfortunately I sent this to Ottawa and I have been sorry for it ever since because I have never got it back.

MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: I think you can get a copy of that book from Mr. Schofield the Provincial Librarian and Archivist.

MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: Do you know that post on the Liard River?

A. Yes, I have been there. I know it very well.

Q. Have the Hudson Bay Company got any places fenced in there?

A. Only garden spots that is all.

Q. How many acres have they fenced in?

A. There has been a trading post there for the last thirty years. A man by the name of Sylvester first located there and later the Hudson Bay Company bought this land out. Whether Sylvester or the Hudson Bay Company acquired land there I am not prepared to say - If they did acquire land there that would have nothing to do with the land you are getting for the Indians.

- Q. How much land did they have fenced?
- A. Only a very small patch for a garden.
- Q. Did they ever grow any grain there?
- A. Yes, I think they did on one or two occasions and it turned out alright.
- Q. That is rather encouraging is it not?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Is there anything that would occur to you that would be useful for us to know about this?
- A. No, not that I can think of except to say that as long as the Hudson's Bay Company interests are protected outside of that there can be no harm done there to anyone by granting the request of the Indians.
- Q. Mr. Simpson says they have six houses there?
- A. Yes, but prior to the establishment of the post by Sylvester they had no houses there.
- Q. This land is for three tribes - the Liards, the Fort Francis and the Nelson bands?
- A. Yes, they all congregate there.
- Q. And they have a total population of 166?
- A. Yes, that would be the most central point for them.
Highland had a trading post there but I don't think he ever acquired any land right there.
- MR. COMMISSIONER MCKENNA: Probably Sylvester didn't either.
- MR. COMMISSIONER MACDOWALL: The recommendation was that the 640 acres be divided - 320 acres to be allotted to the Liard and Fort Francis Bands in common, and 360 acres to the Nelson Band?
- A. No answer.
- Q. Item No. 23 for 160 acres more or less, at the junction of the Liard and Muddy Rivers - have you ever been there?
- A. Yes, I have been there, and I don't see why there should be any objection to giving them land because no white man would ever want to go there and live ; the rapids there are something terrific. In a conversation you could just use our lips moving and that is all; a few hearing what the conversation was it

was simply out of the question on account of the terrific noise made by the rapids. Mr. Scott Simpson knows that country very well, and personally I do not think there would not be any objection to giving them all the land they wanted there.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING.

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