

Indian Affairs
Black Series

(RG 10, Volume 3700)

File 16,686

Northwest Coast Agency - Correspondence regarding the complaints of the Nass Indians that white men are encroaching upon their villages (map, clippings). 1879 - 1886

File 16,692

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Report of Edgar Dewdney, Commissioner, regarding his visits to the various Indian reserves in the Edmonton Agency. 1884

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Northwest Coast Agency - Correspondence regarding the various Indian tribes on the British Columbia coast including a report by Gilbert Malcolm Sproat, Indian Reserve Commissioner and a report by Superintendent Israel Wood Powell on the Aht Indians (maps, clippings). 1879 - 1880

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Northwest Coast Agency - Correspondence regarding the allotment of Reserves in British Columbia. 1880

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Northwest Coast Agency - A report on the Ahts Indian tribe prepared by Israel Wood Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs. 1879

File 16,735

Northwest Territories and Manitoba - A schedule of townships in which the odd-numbered sections, at the disposal of the Government, are reserved to meet the sale under the terms of the Order in Council of the 15th of March, 1883 of 2,752,000 acres of land to the Portage, Westbourne and North Western Railway Company (map). 1884 - 1885

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Berens River Agency - Correspondence regarding accounts submitted for material used in the construction of the Black River Reserve School. 1884

2....

M 76.693

Department of the Interior.

Indian Affairs.

Ottawa, 10th March, 1880.

Memorandum.

With reference to the subject matter of the correspondence placed herewith, from Dr. Powell, Visiting Indian Superintendent, British Columbia, and Mr. G. M. Sproat, Indian Reserve Commissioner for that Province, on the question of allotting Reserves to the Coast Tribes of British Columbia, the undersigned begs to state, that he feels himself constrained to dissent from the view expressed by the Indian Superintendent for British Columbia although it is with diffidence he does so, supported as Dr. Powell is in that view by the Honorable Mr. Halkett and Mr. Anderson (one of the late Indian Reserve Commissioners for British Columbia) that it is inadvisable to assign Reserves to the Coast Tribes of that Province generally.

The Right Hon.

Sir John A. Macdonald K. C. B.

Supt. General of Indian Affairs.

Dr. Powell a copy
of this letter sent to
Mr. Sproat & Mr. Anderson
for their consideration

until White Settlement creeps up to the different Indian Villages.

It appears to the undersigned that it would on the contrary be prudent to forestall any complications and difficulties that may arise between Indians and future White Settlers on the Coast by allotting to the former before the Country becomes settled sufficient reserve land, and obtaining Letters Patent from the Government of British Columbia, covering the same.

The difficulties that have arisen in the interior of the Province of British Columbia in connection with the allotment of Reserves to the Indians have resulted from White Settlers encroaching upon Indian Settlements and taking up and improving lands claimed by Indians. — In view of this fact it would in the opinion of the undersigned, be bad policy to allow White Settlers on the Coast to monopolize the best lands as they have done in the interior to the prejudice of the Indians.

It is possible that a less

expensive

expensive mode of allotting these Reserves might be adopted, that the Reserve Commission as at present constituted costs; and the undersigned agrees with Dr. Osowell in the view, that it would be better, before the expense of sending a Commissioner for finally settling aside the Reserves is incurred, that a trustworthy and competent person, acquainted with the Indians and their requirements should precede that officer, and ascertain the views of the Indians and their actual requirements as respects land, wood, &c.

When this information has been obtained the Commissioner (who the undersigned is of opinion should be a Provincial Land Surveyor, who might survey the boundaries of the Reserves at the time of his visit) should proceed to the various localities visited by the person who preceded him, and should act upon the report and recommendation of the latter in allotting Reserves to the Indians.

All respectfully submitted

Wm. H. A. Smith

Deputy Supt. General
of Indian Affairs