

Soda Creek, B.C.

July 24th, 1914.

Duncan C. Scott, Esq.,

Deputy Superintendent General of I.A.,

c/o Inspector W.E. Ditchburn

Victoria, B.C.

Sir,

By direction of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia, I have the honour to advise you that a meeting with the Indians of the Shuswap nation at Canim Lake I.R., on the 15th instant, the Indians of the Band then and there present declined to make any general statement or to give evidence touching their reserves, giving as their explanation for such cause the statement that their Chief had received the following letter:

"Indian Rights Association of B.C.

"Office of the General Secretary,

"41 South Turner Street,

"Victoria, B.C.,

"June 23rd, 1914.

"Dear Sir,

"I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Clark
"has gone to England with full instructions to wait
"upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and
"urge that the original petition of the British Columbia
"Indians be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the
"Privy Council. Mr. Clark considers this step of the
"utmost importance inasmuch as the Commission now at
"work is not dealing with the question of title, which
"question covers the rights of the Indians not only to
"the land, but also to the fish, game, timber, water
"and other interests to which the natives laid claim be-
"fore the coming of the white man and which they have
"never surrendered. We trust and pray that Mr. Clark
"may be successful as it seems the only hope of getting
"justice.

"This action will entail considerable expense
"with very little money in the treasury to meet it. For
"two years you have not been asked to subscribe, but
"now the time has come to urge this matter, and you know
"it cannot be done without money. I think it would be
"well to make a general appeal - to the women as well

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"as the men — for some of the best subscribers have
"been women.

"Trusting that this matter will receive your
"immediate attention.

"Yours faithfully,
(sd) "C.M. Tate,
"Gen'l Secretary.

I may add that at various meetings with the Indians
held subsequent to that Canim Lake on the 15th inst.,
statements were made by the Indians and evidence given as
desired, touching the matter of reserves and the conditions
obtaining generally among the Indians.

The commission has thought it well to place these
facts before you for your information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.H. Gibbons,
Assistant Secretary.