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Vernon Jubilee Hospital

Vernon, B.C.

March 6th, 1915.

Assistant Deputy & Secretary.-
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

Sir:-

I beg to enclose herewith copy of letter received from Indian Agent Graham with reference to the imposition placed upon the Indians by James Teit of Spence's Bridge, in calling the Indians there for meetings.

This has happened several times during the past year and I have taken no notice of it, but this last occasion when he had all the Chiefs and Council-men gathered there from the 24th to the 27th of February, and for no purpose apparently but to listen to a few misguided fanatics from the Neas, who were coming there to harangue them and embitter them against the Whites and against the Department, has about reached the limit, and it seems to me that it should not be ignored any longer.

These notices, as far as I can learn, have been sent by Teit to Indians all over my Inspectorate, and the amount it has cost the Indians to respond as they did, must have been fully \$1,500, or more. I know of three Indians from one Band in the Similkameen Valley who attended, and as they were all held up at Sicamous over Sunday because of there being no Sunday train on the S. & O. Branch, it entailed an absence of eight days from their homes, and would cost them at least about \$65.00 each, for expenses. I know of Indians who went to the meeting, who cannot pay their debts or obtain credit in the stores, and who will be around in a few days asking for seed grain; and the money which they

spent travelling to Spence's Bridge was doubtless collected from members of their Band who have no money to spare.

Any grievances which the Indians of Naas may have, should not interest those in this part of the Province, and if Mr. Teit wants to hear them he should go to Naas at his own expense instead of calling all the Indians to him at Spence's Bridge where he lives.

There is no learning what is said or done at these meetings, but the remarks and attitude of Mr. Teit to Indian Agent, Graham, is ample evidence that the result accomplished is that of sowing discontent among the Indians, and still further impoverishing them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. McLean

Inspector of Indian Agencies.

1 Inclosure