

British Columbia



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Indian Office

Victoria Nov 9 1883

Sir,

I have the honor to report my return to Victoria, after having made an extensive official visit throughout the interior, inspecting, en route, the Fraser, Kamloops and Okanagan Agencies and a large portion of the Elbert District.

I left Victoria on the 24th of August, and having visited New Westminster, the head quarters of Mr. McTernan, that officer accompanied me as far as the upper limits of his district at Yale.

Mr. McTernan appears to be doing some satisfactory work in his Agency, and is one of the most active Agents in the Province, no complaints

Yours Honorable
The Supt General
of Indian Affairs.

complaints were made to me, and the Indians under his care are improving and satisfied.

This officer expends the full amount allowed him during the year in travelling expenses, and could utilize a larger sum, if it were sanctioned. The limited allowance of \$400⁰⁰ is insufficient, and has the effect, practically, of tying an industrious Agent's hands and preventing further visitation during the remainder of the year, after that sum has been disbursed.

An office is necessary for the Agent as long as his headquarters are fixed at New Westminster.

It is a central location, and during the fishing season, especially, is visited by a large number of Indians from the river and coast line, hence the Agent's services are daily called into requisition for some service or other.

No allowance has been made for an office and as Mr. M. J. Turner's salary does not permit him to furnish such a necessity himself, I venture to recommend, for your consideration, that application should be made for an apartment in the building recently erected by the Department of Public Works in New Westminster.

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For that a monthly allowance should be made to the Agent to provide himself with proper official quarters. At Yale, I procured horses from the Express Company and continued my journey, as far as Cariboo, some 250 miles beyond the headquarters of Mr. Cornwall at Dickcraff, inspecting the principal reserves along the line of route, and returning to Soda Creek where I crossed Fraser River and proceeded on horse back through the Chilcooten Country.

— Soda Creek Indians —

I have had the honor of calling your attention, on previous occasions, to the urgent protests of the Soda Creek band of Indians who have no reserve of any consequence, and whose position, as compared with other Indians, gives them just grounds of complaint.

The small reserve now occupied by them is of little use or value and from its situation near the village where there are two licensed houses and consequently a frequent supply of whiskey their condition is sorely tried.

If these Indians are to be lifted from the "slough of despond,"

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_____ Tusculum Indians _____

The Quaselle Reserve is a good one though the Indians appear to be poor and unable to develop and improve it for the want of tools and farming implements. 91

There were some cases of sickness and distress in the Camp, which I relieved during my visit, and I beg to recommend that they may be supplied with

One	good	Plough	40
One	set	Harness	
"	"	Starvation Keith	16
1	doz	Shoes	18
$\frac{1}{2}$	"	Mattocks	75
$\frac{1}{4}$	"	Shades	6
$\frac{1}{4}$	"	Ratles	3
1	sd	Grindstone	2

At Alexandria there are two licensed
places which must depend greatly
upon

upon traffic with the Indians for support as travelling is limited and there are not 2 dozen settlers in the neighborhood.

The Chief is reported to be a confirmed drunkard, and many of his tribe follow his example.

I asked Mr. Meason to pay them particular attention with a view of improving their condition, and if possible to stop the license of one or both houses.

Cariboo Mines

The number of Indians stopping at the mines is now very limited.

Formerly, representatives from both interior and coast tribes made regular pilgrimages there with injury to their morals in consequence.

Those possessing camps at the present time at Cariboo are chiefly engaged in packing and expressed themselves as satisfied and contented.

Chilcotin

On my return to Soda Creek, I met two of the Chilcotin Chiefs, Anahim and Goosey, who had come thither to meet and escort me through
there

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their Country. I crossed Fraser River on the 8th September, and rode 36 miles camping at Deer Park where forty or fifty of Goosey's Indians had assembled to meet me before going to their camp twelve or fifteen miles farther on.

In reply to my introductory words to them, Goosey addressed me as follows. "Chief", I know that my people have a bad name, but you are the first Queen's officer who has visited us, except for the purpose of arresting some of our number.

We have been afraid of white people because those we have generally met have imposed upon and deceived us.

We have heard your words, and we are glad that the Queen has sent you to us as our friend.

You do not come among us to arrest us and punish us, but to counsel and advise us. You must remember that our people are as yet wild.

They are like the deer which sleeps and starts suddenly at the first sound of alarm.

Some of my people are hid in the mountains and have been afraid to come in.

They will come in to see you, and when they hear your kind words they will not be afraid, and will do what you say.

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We will all meet you tomorrow.
 Fortunately, I had received
 at Soda Creek from Mr. Maffett
 Capt. Meason's appointment, and
 having sent a messenger for him, that
 gentleman accompanied me through-
 out the remainder of his Agency, a
 circumstance that greatly facilitated
 the proper understanding of his in-
 structions, and enabled me to intro-
 duce him personally to the various
 tribes, as their future resident Agent.

Capt. Meason is a retired
 army officer, a resident of the Country
 for the last 24 years, and therefore
 well acquainted with Native tribes
 of the Interior. He appears to be
 an active man (riding from fifty to
 sixty miles a day with me during
 my visit in his district) and, so
 far as I was able to judge, was
 well received by, and possesses the
 confidence of the Indians.

I had not previously met
 Capt. Meason but I think his selection
 was a good one. The Indians
 without exception seemed exceedingly
 pleased that they could now have
 his services as their counsellor.

The Chinooks who have
 lately given the Authorities con-
 siderable trouble felt themselves from
 their isolation, almost outside the
 surveillance.

surveillance of the law.

Separated by the Fraser from the populated parts of the Interior - with only four or five settlers among them and with no officer of the law in their country, they imagined that the power of might was on their side, and hence, some of their lawless acts.

The recent hanging of two of their number for murder, and the imprisonment of others for robbery and cattle stealing, succeeded immediately, by my visit, and the introduction of an Agent to them, will, I feel assured, inaugurate a change in the future conduct of these Indians.

With regard to their offences, I might remark that there are only six settlers in the Chilcotin Country distant from each other from seven to twenty miles.

These farmers all own cattle which during the summer are allowed to stray in every direction and are collected only once or twice in the season for the purpose of branding the increase.

They are thus allowed to stray until winter, when they are collected and, if the winter be severe, looked after during the most inclement months.

Besides these there are

are over 500 head of cattle roaming and not herded in any way - belonging to persons who have no farms in the vicinity. No herders are employed to look after any of the cattle in the summer and the temptation to kill one now and then for food to appease hunger, proves often too much for these wild and untutored savages to resist.

I cannot help concluding that much blame rests upon settlers themselves for not employing herders to look after their cattle during the whole year and thus removing any temptation of the kind. - It may I think be said not without some truth that with equal certainty of being undetected, and with equal poverty and hunger, very many white men would commit the same acts.

The Chiefs have hitherto had little influence with their people from the want of some recognition by and absence of the Authorities.

My visit and the introduction of an Agent at the same time has caused a change in the feelings of the Chiefs who voiced their satisfaction by accompanying me throughout my journey in their country and frequently informed me

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met that they desired to exert their authority under the advice of the Agent.

One great blessing enjoyed by these Indians is the absence of licensed houses in their country for selling liquor, and if possible to prevent their introduction it should be done.

In their speeches the Chiefs earnestly requested land to be set aside and expressed their great fears that the Reserve Commissioner would not deal justly by them because he had failed to do so in the case of the Soda Creek Indians. I informed them that this was not his fault as there were no lands to give them and the proposal to purchase some was under the consideration of the Government.

Anahim complained that the amounts due his people for apprehending the two murderers (about \$800⁰⁰) had not been paid and I assured him that I would attend immediately to this matter on my arrival at Victoria - a promise that has since been successfully fulfilled.

So far as Anahim himself, who was chiefly instrumental in effecting the capture,

is concerned I may mention, as illustrative of his character, that when asked by the presiding Judge if he would accept a money reward he replied that "he did not wish to receive pay for the blood of his children."

The Chilcotin Indians are much in the want of implements with which to cultivate their lands.

They are too poor to buy them and I think a present of these articles would not only prove useful but do much towards satisfying them, and ensuring their attachment.

There are three tribes which are known as the Gooey tribe, Anahim tribe and the Stone tribe.

The Gooey tribe require

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| 2 | Ploughs |
| 2 sets | Harrows (plough) |
| 2 | " Harrow teeth |
| 4 | scythes (complete) |
| 2 | " blades (grain) |
| 1 | " Grindstone |
| 4 | " Hay Forks |
| 6 | " Shovels |
| 3 | " Picks |
| 2 | " Mattocks |

The Anahim tribe require the same, with the addition of a Tanning Mill which, I think should be presented to the chief personally. And the Stone tribe -

1 Plough

- 1 Plough
 1 set Harness (Plough)
 1 " " Harrow teeth
 4 " " Scythes (complete)
 1 " " Grindstone
 4 " " Hay forks
 4 " " Shovels
 4 " " Picks
 3 " " Mattocks
 2 " " Bean Cradles.

The Agent would give them full instruction as to the use and care of the above articles if you could kindly approve of the purchase.

On the 14th, I received the Treason and arrived at Alkali Lake the same evening, visiting Canoe and Dog Creek and arriving at Clinton by the river trail on the 18th.

The Alkali Lake, Dog Creek and Canoe Creek tribes are poorly off as compared with other Indians in the Province - Their lands are unsatisfactory and many of them appeared discouraged; unfortunately they can obtain liquor easily from licensed houses in the vicinity - a fact which brings home to them additional troubles. They complained in all their speeches of their neglected condition, and their inability to obtain sufficient from their lands to support themselves.

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themselves.

The Canoe Creek Indians brought water a distance of 25 miles during the present year and I think will have all they want for irrigation purposes, and would make good use of land if more were given them.

As an instance of the hardships they have suffered I was informed that a man named Richie preempted land which they cultivated and on which they had their burial grounds and houses. After obtaining a Crown Grant he sold it, and it is now occupied by the third owner.

That Indians submit to such a mode of dealing with them speaks well for their peaceful propensities, but the circumstance gives them increased claims for justice and future protection.

— Clinton Indians —

The Clinton Indians are located on the outskirts of the village and are more or less demoralized in consequence. I have advised them to remove to the reserve a few miles distant and I am in hope that the Agent will be able finally to act upon the suggestion.

They have never been visited by the Agent, Mr. Cornwall, and so their

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their present condition require considerable attention. Now that an Agent has been appointed for the Lillost District, it will be more convenient for Capt Meason to see them, and should you not think otherwise, I have instructed that gentleman to regard Clinton as a portion of his Agency. The local

Government Agent at that place, Mr Jones, has bestowed much watchful care over these Indians and has done much to demote the whiskey traffic among them which would otherwise have been carried on even more extensively than it has been.

I remained at Clinton three days during which time several Chiefs came from surrounding country to interview me upon various matters, and I left on the 20th September for Kamloops arriving there on the 22nd.

I had requested Mr Cornwall to accompany me through his Agency, but at Cache Creek, I received a note from that gentleman informing me that his health would not then permit him to do so.

Owing to railway work the Indians of the Kamloops Agency have been kept pretty actively employed, hence there were

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were few complaints notwithstanding the inability of the Agent to do much in the way of visiting the bands in his Agency.

In regard to the two Interior Agencies Kamloops and Okanagan, I have to state that Indians generally in these districts complain that except at perhaps the residences of the Agents the bands do not derive much benefit from either of the appointments.

Mr. Cornwall's ill health has just permitted him to perform the visiting duty anticipated in Agents instructions, and Mr. Stowess' journeys throughout this Agency have been too rapid and circumscribed in their character to be of much service to any of the bands called upon. Again, the latter gentleman appears to labor under the misfortune of being unpopular both with white settlers and Indians, so that his influence for good with the last named class, and in promoting peaceful relations between both, amounts really to very little.

As a result of my inspection, I am of opinion that better boundaries could be made for these districts and more convenient places selected for Agents head-quarters, and I beg to recommend for your consideration that the limits of the Okanagan Agency

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Agency should be continued so as to include the reserves from Cook's Ferry to Spuzzum with headquarters at Lytton (instead of Nicola). The Reserves at the head of Okanagan Lake with a small one at the R. C. Mission then to be included in the Kamloops Agency with headquarters at Kamloops.

The Kamloops Agent would then reside at the middle point of his work and just where he would be convenient and accessible to a number of the largest and most important reserves in the interior at all seasons of the year.

The Okanagan (formerly named) Agent with residence at Lytton, would be in the midst of a large number of small reserves requiring almost daily attention from constant disputes, and where he could be of most service in preventing (not feasible under present arrangements) the extensive liquor traffic carried on along the trunk wagon road and railway line.

The Nicola and Similkameen reserves would also be convenient to him by good trails either by Cook's Ferry or, if he happened to be at Spuzzum, by the way known as the Hope trail.

A glance at the Agency Map

Mr. Asst. Powell has been written to for a report on Judge Powell's suggestions of changes in the boundaries of three & other Agencies in B.C.

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Map on file at Ottawa will illustrate
my meaning by extending the northern
boundary line of the Okanagan Agency
westerly to Cook's Ferry, and easterly
abridging it so as to place the large
reserve of 34,000 Acres at the head of
Okanagan Lake and the small one
at the R. C. Mission (connected by an
excellent waggon road with Kamloops)
in the Kamloops Agency.

Under this proposed change
the small extent of territory containing
innumerable patches of reserves and
many bands lying between Cook's Ferry
and Hale (Skuzzum) on the waggon road
would be included in the Okanagan
Agency, and the Agent would reside
~~in the midst of them~~, and within a
days travel of the large reserves at
Merla.

In the winter season, under
any circumstances, it is difficult, if
not impossible, for an Agent in the
Interior to travel, and, according to
present custom, he remains at one
place for at least eight months in
the year. During that period both
of the officers alluded to are out of
the way and inaccessible to a large
majority of the Indians in their
respective Agencies. I am confident
therefore that the change which I
have ventured to propose would be a
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great improvement and much more satisfactory to the Indians, the settlers and this Department, than the present inconvenient arrangement.

The request made to His Excellency the Governor General when at Kamloops by Nicola Indians to transfer Mr. Doivise, and select some other gentleman was repeated to me at my visit, but it occurs to me that the removal of his head-quarters would probably satisfy them. In any event the step is desirable on general grounds of utility.

I left Nicola on the 4th of October arriving at Victoria on the 10th my visit having occupied a period of nearly eight weeks during which I traversed more than sixteen hundred miles on horseback and driving.

I will leave again for the North West Coast as soon as I can dispose of correspondence, accumulated during my absence.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your obt^d Servant,
W. Powell

Indian Superintendent.