

PROGRESS REPORT No 2
OF THE
ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

To the Honourable
W J ROCHE, M D,
Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Canada

Sir

On behalf of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia, I have the honour to report as follows concerning the work of the Commission during the period subsequent to the issuance of Progress Report No 1 and the resignation by the Hon E L Wetmore, LL D, of the Chairmanship

**Sittings
and Cor-
respondence**

The Commission having, by resolution, decided to discontinue field operations during the winter months the transaction of business until the assumption of the chairmanship by Nathaniel W White, Esq, K C, and the arrival of Commissioner Carmichael, has been confined to formal sittings of the majority of the Commission at the Board Room, Victoria, upon fifty days during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April to date, with ten additional days sittings by the Special Committee on Itineraries for the forthcoming season afield

At the Board meetings above referred to, correspondence of varied character was received and dealt with, the volume of such correspondence including 243 letters inward and 308 letters outward, in addition to Interim Reports, etc, etc

**Dispositions
of Reserves**

Primarily—during the sittings of the Board during the latter days of November, 1913—the time of the Commission was largely occupied in passing upon Reserves of the Kamloops Agency (by confirmations, reductions or additions), subject to final revision, and to the direction of the work of tabulating all such dispositions of Reserves of this and other Agencies visited to date, for purposes of ready and convenient reference

**Consideration
of Depart-
mental Files,
Etc**

The Commission was also for some time engaged in the analysis and consideration of various matters contained on files of the Department of Indian Affairs, referred to the Commission by such Department. These included various special references by Governmental Departments, Railway Companies, Municipal authorities and private corporations and individuals, no fewer than forty-two of which Files were passed upon and dealt with

In many cases recommendations, by Interim Report or Resolution, resulted, in a number of others, the referred subjects were found to lie outside the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction and authority, or to be matters strictly of Departmental administration and concern, and the Files were accordingly returned to Ottawa, together with copies of Minutes covering such returns

A systematic Register of Files was also prepared under the direction of the Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto, as ^{Register of Files} APPENDIX "A"

During the suspension of active field operations and incident to the consideration of Files as above referred to, the Commission, upon request of the Department of Indian Affairs in each instance and in order to facilitate action where an expeditious disposal of public business was obviously necessary, prepared, passed and transmitted to the two interested Governments sundry Interim Reports, as follows ^{Interim Reports}

- No 19—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry to the Canada Explosives Company Limited in and upon East Saanich I R No 2 of the Saanich Tribe
- No 20—Confirming Qua-aout I R No 1 of the Little Shuswap Lake Band
- No 21—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company in and upon Squim-lik-stat I R
- No 22—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry in and upon Okanagan I R No 1 to the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company
- No 23—Confirming Chu-chu-way-ha I R's Nos 2, 2A, 2B and 2C, of the Upper Similkameen Band
- No 24—Confirming North Thompson I R No 1, Nekalliston I R No 2, Barriere River I R No 3 and Louis Creek I R No 4, of the North Thompson and Canoe Lake Band, Kamloops Agency
- No 25—Recommending the granting of a defined portion of Penticton I R No 1 of the Penticton Tribe to the Department of Agriculture of Canada, for Experimental Farm purposes
- No 26—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry in and upon Charles and Tibbets I R's to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company
- No 27—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry in and upon Chig-in-kaht I R to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company
- No 28—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry in and upon Shuswap I R of the Shuswap Tribe, Kinbasket's Band, to the Kootenay Central Railway Company
- No 29—Recommending the granting of right-of-entry in and upon North Bay (Tappen's Siding) I R No 5, of the Little Shuswap Lake (Kuaut) Band to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company

**Lands
Specified
for Special
Reservation**

Under and by virtue of Paragraph 8 of the Agreement attached to the Commission, the Commission also specified certain parcels of land as lands which it is deemed necessary and desirable that the Provincial Government of British Columbia should reserve and withhold from pre-emption or sale until the Commission shall have passed upon applications that these be added to the Reserve lands of the North Thompson, Kitimat, Kitasoo, Kemsquit, Massett, Skidegate Homalco and Ahousaht Tribes or Bands for the purpose of more effectually providing for the necessary and reasonable requirements of the Indians of these tribes or bands, such specified lands being more particularly described in the memorandum attached hereto and forming APPENDIX "B" hereof

**Status of
Lands
Applied For**

Directions were also given by the Commission that the status of each of the parcels of land for which applications have been made in behalf of the Indians, either by the Department of Indian Affairs prior to the constitution of the Commission or by the Commission itself, since its creation, for the uses and purposes of the Indians, should be ascertained from the Lands Department of the Province of British Columbia, and a statement shewing the same prepared for the information and use of the Commission

**Preparation
of Itineraries**

The Commission's Committee on Itineraries has given careful consideration to the preparation of a programme of visitations in close sequence, during the Spring, Summer and Autumn months of the various Reserves in Agencies not as yet dealt with, and has also secured and compiled information as to facilities of access, physical characteristics of the various Reserves, population in its several classifications and divisions, lands applied for, etc, etc, which information it is expected will considerably facilitate future operations afield, while assuring thorough and comprehensive knowledge of all conditions obtaining upon Reserves in British Columbia

The Commission has received, considered and adopted reports from time to time presented by this Committee on Itineraries, and, with the sanction and authority of the Department, has secured the C P R Company's steamship "Tees" for the transportation of the Commission on visitations in the West Coast and Kwawkwalth Agencies, which visitations, it is proposed, shall be entered upon as early in May proximo as may be possible

**Special
Informative
Memoranda**

The Commission, since the issuance of Progress Report No 1, has also given consideration to a number of special matters affecting the interests of the Indian inhabitants of British Columbia, evidence in respect to which has incidentally presented itself in the course of the Commission's work to date and which appear to call for consideration and possible action by Government or Department in advance of the completion of the Commission's activities and the presentation of its Final Report. Included among these matters may be mentioned the

so-called "Indian Land Title Claim" and the question of special rights and privileges to be enjoyed by Indians under the revised and consolidated Game Act of British Columbia and regulations framed thereunder, in respect to which matters memoranda setting forth all evidence and information in the possession of the Commission and which might be useful to the governmental authorities concerned, were prepared and transmitted respectively to the Honourable the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs and to the Honourable the Attorney-General of British Columbia

Special consideration was also given to the involved question of Indian fishing rights and privileges, and representations made thereon

Under the direction and supervision of the Commission, a scheme of scientific analysis and tabulation of all information gleaned by the Commission, by inspection, testimony, official reports, etc., etc., with respect to each and every Reserve in Agencies as yet visited, has also been evolved and its preparation virtually completed. Such analysis will, for purposes of convenience in reference, be divided into three tables, which it is designed shall be attached as appendices to the Final Report of the Commission, and which it is hoped will prove of considerable permanent reference worth to the Department and its officers directly concerned with the administration of Indian Affairs in British Columbia. Samples of the tables above mentioned are attached hereto as APPENDIX "C"

Tabulation of
Evidence and
Information

As it has appeared highly desirable that the fair approximate value of each and all Indian Reserve holdings in British Columbia be ascertained and put upon record, the Commission has instructed Agents Thomas Deasy and Iver Fougner to supply such desired valuations for the Queen Charlotte and Bella Coola Agencies respectively, and has engaged the following gentlemen to act in conjunction with the respective Agents of the Department of Indian Affairs in the preparation of valuations for the several districts named hereunder, viz

Valuations

Cowichan Agency—J T L Meyer, Esq, Victoria
Kamloops Agency—A W Duck Esq, Ducks
Okanagan Agency—D H Watson, Esq, Summerland

In Agencies as yet to be visited it is the intention of the Commissioners insofar as possible to make such investigations in the course of visitations as will enable them to present approximate valuations thereof without outside aid

The completion of stenographic transcripts and precis reports in connection with field work of the past season, comprehensive indexing of all records, annotation of miscellaneous matters constituting material for the Final Report of the Commission, etc., have otherwise actively

General
Routine

occupied the quorum of the Commission during the period elapsing since the issuance and transmission of Progress Report No 1

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D H MACDOWALL,
Acting Chairman

Victoria B C ,
April 21st, 1914