

3/9446

December 20, 1940.

Dear Sir:

With further reference to the proposed amalgamation of the Salmon River and Comox Bands, I would advise that Mr. Indian Agent Moore held a meeting with the latter on the 11th instant and they agreed to the proposal, but as he omitted to forward the resolution of the Comox Band, I am unable to proceed with the matter until this is forwarded.

Meanwhile I have given the matter some consideration and it would appear that some tentative observations could be made on the subject.

I cannot say that I am entirely satisfied from an administrative viewpoint that the advantages of transferring the Comox Band into your Agency would compensate for the disadvantages. The Comox Reserve is quite accessible from Duncan by automobile whereas, if handled from Alert Bay, it would be necessary to travel by bus from Campbell River and possibly hire transportation in the locality. However, this may present no great difficulty. On the other hand, it would not appear feasible to include the Salmon River Reserve in the Cowichan Agency, unless the Reserve was transferred to another Band in the neighborhood.

As at March 31, 1939, the Salmon River Band had \$12.45 in their Interest Account, but no Capital Account, and the Comox Band had \$5,677.25 Capital and \$108.26 Interest. Presumably the question of these funds have been fully considered by both parties, but against this should be considered the value of the Salmon River timber. It is noted that the Salmon River Band consists of eleven persons and the Comox Band of forty-eight persons.

Pending receipt of the Comox resolution from Mr. Moore I would appreciate further information on the foregoing observations.

Yours faithfully,

D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

/GR

Mr. Tisdal

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