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they protested, somebody miles away in Victoria, wrote and told them that they must obey the King's law and that if they made any trouble they would get the worst of it. What was the King's law, he asked, it certainly did not do the Indian any good. Last winter a white man had assaulted one of their people at the Aiyansh Post Office, right in front of the Postmaster, but he had not been arrested, whereas if an Indian had assaulted one of the whites, the Indian would have been "railroaded" off to gaol very quickly. The discussion continued in this strain and as they were quite determined in their rejection of the five acre reserves and are thoroughly disgruntled I did not prolong it.

I am rendering a separate report regarding the damage done to the old graveyard by the Dominion Water Survey. This is very slight and can be remedied without much difficulty. None of the responsible officials were in the district at the time I was there, so it was impossible for me to take it up with them on the spot, but on investigation I believe that the excavation complained of, was necessary in their work and would think that they have every intention of fixing it up on conclusion of their operations, as this is the usual custom with Government parties engaged in this work.

The matter of the assault was unfortunate and in trying to refute their statements put me to a great disadvantage. It was about the only genuine complaint which they had and one that I could have very easily dealt with, were I not so handicapped in the manner in which I have so often reported. Of course, I cannot explain to Indians, the major difficulty which I have in handling cases and if they get the impression that I am weak or indifferent, it is not to be wondered at.

Last winter, Rev. H. Flores - Missionary at Aiyansh - reported to me by mail, that an Indian named James Smythe had been assaulted by a white settler named J. J. Phillips and that the affair had caused general bad feeling in the district. I forwarded the letter on to Prince Rupert with the suggestion that this case could easily be handled by the Provincial Constable stationed at Terrace, who could ~~essily~~ go into Aiyansh by trail, investigate and if necessary take all the parties concerned out and have the case heard at Terrace. In making this suggestion, I had in mind the question of expense more than anything else as there is no Justice of the Peace on the Nass and it would have been more economical for this case to have been taken to Terrace, than to have been brought down the river and on to Prince Rupert or Anyox, to say nothing of it being within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Police. However, the assault was committed on Feb. 28th, and nothing has yet been done. No doubt the police authorities in Prince Rupert consider it too trivial to bother with and as there have been no further developments, perhaps in a way it is, but people who have to live among Indians take a different view and the moral effect of the case being passed up, is very bad. The Indian, I know, can be very aggravating, but on investigation, *find* that in this case he was the aggrieved party, and in my opinion there were no extenuating circumstances attached to the assault whatever.

I am of opinion that the present conditions are largely due to the impossibility of me being able to proceed with prosecutions as soon as possible after they arise and that owing to so many cases being dropped, the Nass Indians are gradually losing all regard for law and order.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

E. G. Newnham
(E. G. Newnham.)
Dominion Constable.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
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