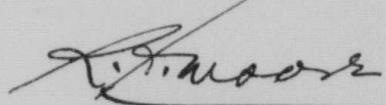


Duncan, B.C.
December 6th, 1946.

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

I beg to attach herewith in duplicate a copy of a letter received from the Standard Logging Company relative to Chemanius I.R. #13 and which I trust may be found self-explanatory. In explanation of this I might say that near the small village on the South end of the reserve known as Siccameen, there is a stand of virgin timber which the Company estimates at a million feet and which the Indians residing on that section of the reserve do not wish them to cut owing to the fact that they want it for fuel. As most of the timber is cedar, it is not satisfactory for fuel purposes and consequently should, in my opinion, be cut irrespective of the wishes of a few of the Indians who are trying to establish individual claims to certain areas of timber on the reserve when in reality all the timber belongs to the band as a whole.

I was amazed to find that there is still at least one million board feet of virgin timber on any one section of that reserve in spite of all the logging operations which have been carried on during the past 15 or 20 years, especially when a ^{survey} ~~survey~~ was given by the Forest Branch in 1940 stating that all the merchantable timber had been removed. As you know, this is a salvage operation and in view of the statement made by the Company in their letter I feel that we would have good grounds to request a substantial increase in the price which they are paying now, as well as the customary payment of ground rental. I wonder if it would be convenient for you to cross to Nanaimo some time when we could interview this Company and find out if it would not be possible to get better financial arrangements which would be more satisfactory to the Indians and this Department, certainly it would appear as if the Logging Company could well afford to pay an increased price for the timber when we consider the present day value. If it would not be convenient for you to come to Nanaimo, I might arrange with them that we go to Vancouver and have a meeting with you in your own office at some convenient time.



R. H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

Encl.
M:F

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