

Cowichan Agricultural Society

Hon. President W. H. Hayward, M. P. P.
President Alex. H. H.
Secy. - Treas. C. W. Silke.

DUNCAN, B. C.

July 26 - 13

The Hon. L. Wetmore
Secretary of Indian Commission

Sir. I am in receipt of copy of the letter which you have forwarded to the Hon. Dr. Roche. In the lease of this Society's grounds at Duncan, and thank you for that Country.

I should like to say that I am a little surprised at your finding. If you have taken all the facts into consideration, but you seem to overlook or ignore the most important one of all from our standpoint - and that is the fact that in 1887 the Society bought and paid the Indians for this land, at the rate of \$30 per acre which was at that time a very high price for unimproved land in that locality.

The surrender of their rights to the Govt was not made, looking to any future sale but was made in order that the Government would be able to implement the sale which had already been made to the Society.

When the Government found they could not give a clear title owing to the claims of the B.C. Government - they gave a long lease at a nominal rental looking to such time as a title deed could be granted to the Agricultural Society for these lands, which all parties rightfully conceded belongs to this Society.