

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE

Prince Rupert, B.C.,

August 18th,1922

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No.I.O.

ALSO

TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

Sir,—

I thought I would acquaint you with what has been done in connection with representations to the Fisheries Commission as well as Messrs Kelly and Reid who are here in connection with the affairs of the Indians.

I was in attendance before the Fisheries Commission in company with Messrs Kelly and Reid for two whole days. I appeared early to offer evidence but the Commission thought that I, being a Departmental official, should be heard after the fishermen. Consequently, the entire two-days' sitting of the Commission was taken up and the Sitting was about to adjourn at six o'clock, when Mr. Fred Stork, M.P. for Prince Rupert, seconded by Mr. Mc Quarrie, M.P., introduced a resolution that the Commission hold a special session the same evening at 8 o'clock. This passed unanimously, and I was there at the time stipulated and was given a full and patient hearing. So also was Mr. Kelly and Mr. Reid, and Henry Collinson, a native of Kitkatla.

I asked for free access for Indians to fish for their food supply, and qualified this request with information at hand of a local nature, with a view to the support of the general claim of the Indians for this privilege.

I gave information concerning the drag-seining operations of the Indians, asking for licenses issued direct to Indians instead of to the canneries in cases where Indians could furnish their own boats and gear.

As the fishing of the Indians under drag-seine licenses in District No. 2 strictly with Indian crews but under cannery licenses, appears to be a modification of, or rather is substituted for, recognition of the hereditary claims of the Indians to about sixty creeks, this matter was also under review. To all appearances the 1922 programme generally seems to work fairly well and there have been few complaints from the Indians (except the claim of Henry Collinson, Indian of Kitkatla, who says he caught 10,000 fish worth 75c per fish—total value \$7500, for which he received 50 cents each—total value \$5000, the balance being retained by the cannery because the cannery had the license, the latter costing the cannery only \$300.00.).

At the same time, the policy now in vogue is for 1922 only and is subject to a change in 1923. I pointed out that if any change was contemplated for 1923, which would be likely to affect the interests of the Indians, the very least that would be asked for by the Indians is that all fishing waters fronting Indian reserves be held for exclusive fishing by Indians only of the Band own-

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