

timber. The Indians particularly begged for this, as on it stands the only cedar in the neighborhood, which is much valued by them.

On my arrival at Douglas, I found that the Indians, with the exception of two old men, were absent, attending a feast or "potlach," on the Fraser River. I was, therefore, obliged to leave without defining this particular reserve. I subsequently met them as they were returning, and I promised that it should be attended to at the earliest convenient date.

The Douglas Indians number 265, viz.: 98 men, and 81 women, and 86 children; and own 18 horses, 54 cattle and 17 sheep; they are good canoe men, packers and farm servants, and as such find ready employment. Having no land beyond small garden patches, they have had no opportunity of engaging in agricultural pursuits. Their fishing stations, and hunting-grounds are unsurpassed.

The Douglas Indians unanimously expressed a wish to have some of the land on the Pemberton meadows assigned to them; in fact, many of this tribe have grown potatoes there for years past, with the consent and approval of the Pemberton Indians. Their request should be complied with when the suggestions contained in my Report, on the Pemberton meadows, are adopted. (See Report 6th March, 1882).

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

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,
VICTORIA, B.C., 25th March, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, as previously reported in my letter of 26th September last, I proceeded to the North-West coast for the purpose of defining reserves for the Indians on the Nass and Skeena rivers, and also for the Tsimpian tribe residing at Fort Simpson and Metlakatla. I reached Kincolith, at the mouth of the Naas River, on the 7th October, where I was detained by stress of weather for two days, during which time I had several conversations with the Indians in the presence of Mr. Shute, the Missionary of the Church Missionary Society, but in consequence of the complaints of these Indians (as contained in their petition to Dr. Powell, viz.: "That their supply of winter food on the Naas River was being interfered with by the establishment of canneries," a copy of which was handed to me on the 21st September), I deemed it advisable to examine the fisheries and hear what the Indians had to say at the different villages before deciding upon reserves anywhere; and I have now to state as the result of my observations that no valid ground whatever exists for the supposition that the canneries alluded to in any way interfere with the run of salmon made use of by the Indians, as was abundantly apparent by the very large supply of dried fish that was stored at intervals on the banks of the river, both for home consumption and trade, while the river itself teemed with a later run of salmon which were being taken in enormous quantities.

On enquiry I ascertained that the fish made use of by the Indians is valuable for canning purposes, while, on the other hand, the fish used for canning is not appreciated by the Indians, nor do they rely upon it as an article of food except for present use. These facts I elicited from the Indians themselves, as well as from the white residents, I have therefore no hesitation in stating that the complaints contained in the petition purporting to emanate from the chiefs of the Upper Naas River are groundless, and that the establishment of canneries on the Lower Naas has nothing whatever to do with decreasing the supply of salmon used by the Indians. The Indians, on