

COPY TO: J. L. CALDWELL, A/INDIAN AGENT, GRANBROOK

33-5-227

AIRMAIL

April 23rd, 1945.

Indian Affairs Branch, Dept. of Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Your File No. 36155-6-1

I enclose herewith Mr. Indian Agent Caldwell's letter of the 18th instant, forwarding duplicate lease for 66 acres of land on Lower Kootenay I.R. No. 4, and 50 acres of land on Nicks Island, I.R. No. 5, in favour of Mr. Arthur Peterson.

It appears that part of this land may be held by Johnny George which was leased out by Mr. Indian Agent Irwin without the consent of the Indian owner, regarding which I wrote you sometime in March, requesting that rentals not be distributed until the ownership of the property had been determined. I would recommend that the lease be authorized for this year, subject to Mr. Caldwell securing the consent of Johnny George if part of the land is that referred to as probably being held by him, the amount of rental from that portion to be placed in a suspense account with the previous rentals pending settlement of ownership, and also clearing up the ambiguity of clause 7 a in respect to hauling charges on grain.

It is interesting to note that under this type of farming, Mr. Caldwell points out the land is becoming heavily infested with thistles and various weeds, creating a menace to the surrounding Indian and white lands, which would indicate the advisability of establishing the lands as hay meadows and getting the Indians into stock raising.

It would be appreciated if you would kindly advise Mr. Caldwell in the matter direct by airmail, with a copy to this office by ordinary mail.

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Encl.

For D. M. Mackay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.