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Office of Inspector of Indian Agencies

EXD

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373100

Victoria, B. C.,
October 4, 1916.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter of September 12, No. 55733, enclosing copy of an article from the New Westminster "Columbian," headed "Suggest Building Site for Use of Indians," I beg to report as follows:

On Wednesday, September 28th, I interviewed Mayor Lee of New Westminster in his office and produced the article spoken of. Mayor Lee stated that it was extremely unfortunate that the matter should have been brought before the Council and much more so that it should have appeared in the press. He assured me that the merchants of New Westminster are pleased to have the Indians camp in the city on their way from the canneries after the fishing season before going to the hop yards, as they spend a great deal of money on the purchase of merchandise while there. He stated that while possibly the sanitary arrangements were not as good as in this temporary camp as would exist in a permanent one, the city was going to take the matter in hand and have some water closets built and make the conditions much more favorable for future occasions.

I also interviewed the Chief of Police on the subject and he assured me that though this was only a temporary camp of a few days that the conditions existing would compare favourably with any camp of a number of white people brought together under similar circumstances. He thought that it was much better that they should be kept together in the centre of the city as they could be much better looked after than if they were on the reserve two miles further down the river. With reference to article appearing in another paper about the conduct of the Indians on the train when leaving for the hop fields, he stated that it was without the slightest foundation, for

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7788, File 27153-30 Pt.1)