

Alert Bay, B.C.,
21st September, 1940

Dear Sir,-

At intervals during the past two years, I have been interviewed by individual Indians of the Salmon River (Kahkahmat-isis) Band of this Agency and the Comox Band of the Cowichan Agency, suggesting they would like to amalgamate and locate the two bands at Comox. As the respective bands belong to different Agencies, I explained to them the difficulties in bringing about amalgamation, although at the same time I was sympathetic towards their views.

The Salmon River Band have only one Reserve, which is in an isolated place almost in the centre of my Agency. Due to this isolated location and lack of industry, it has been necessary for them to go elsewhere to find employment, with the result that they have no village of their own on their reserve, and have been living elsewhere, principally in the Comox district. They are related to the Comox band, and have always been very friendly with them.

A short time ago I received a definite request from the Chief of the Salmon River Band stating all members of both bands were then fishing in the vicinity of Campbell River, and asking that a joint meeting of the two bands be called so that they could lay this proposal before the Department. Upon receipt of this, I communicated with Mr. Moore, Indian Agent of the Cowichan Agency, but was advised he was absent on leave and could not be present. As it would not be possible to get the Indians together later, I felt it best to proceed with the meeting without Mr. Moore being present, and to furnish him with the Minutes of the meeting and then later to discuss the matter with him personally.

On Friday, September 13th, a joint meeting was held at Campbell River of the Salmon River and Comox Bands, and I attach hereto the Minutes of the meeting and the resolution which was unanimously passed and signed, which will be self-explanatory.

For the Department's information, I beg to give herewith my reasons why I consider the amalgamation of these two bands is in the best interests of the Indians and the Department.

1. Both bands have a small membership and are related to each other through marriages.
2. The Salmon River Band have no opportunity for employment in their present location, and would be better able to provide for their families were they located at Comox.
3. It would give the Salmon River band permanent homes as they could build and locate at Comox; this is something which they do not have under present conditions.

MS2

RG 10, C-11-2, vol. 11296
File/dossier 15673-1-3

INDIAN AFFAIRS
AFFAIRES INDIENNES

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada

001855