



Prince Rupert,
B.C., May 4, 1934.

Survey
Sir,-

I beg to report as follows for the month of
April

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PORT ESSINGTON CEMETERY.

At the time of this visit, I also inspected the Indian Cemetery owing to a complaint made by Port Essington Indians that they were being charged burial fees by the Cunningham Estates, owners of the land on which the cemetery is situated. I was informed by certain Indians that when the special reserve was purchased from the late Robert Cunningham, in 1902, bona fide resident Indians were exempted from paying burial fees.

Port Essington, being the centre of the salmon fishing industry on the Skeena, Indians gather there in the summer and when deaths occur during the cannery season, owing to convenience burials frequently take place at Port Essington. Indians are now being sued for non-payment of \$10.00 - the fee demanded for burials; notice having also been received at this office from the legal representatives of the Cunningham Estates.

In view of the difficulties arising, I would recommend the purchase of a suitable piece of land adjoining the present cemetery for the use of Indians generally. This matter was the subject of correspondence with the Department in 1912 when a similar recommendation was made by Mr. Perry, then Agent for this district.

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W. E. Collison,
Indian Agent.

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