

they have excellent timber, an unlimited supply of fish of various kinds; they earn high wages during the sealing season, and dispose of large quantities of dogfish oil at a remunerative price.

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

P. O'REILLY,  
*Indian Reserve Commissioner.*

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,  
VICTORIA, B.C., 11th October, 1882.

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

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the 1st June, I visited the O-petch-is-aht tribe of Indians, residing on the left bank of the Somas River, Alberni.

The chief, Ka-now-ish, complained that a man named Charles Taylor was in occupation of part of his village, and asked to have him removed. This, on subsequent inspection, I found to be correct, and have since ascertained that the land, including the Indian houses, had been recorded by Taylor on the 16th November, 1872, and that a certificate of improvements had been issued to him on the 26th May, 1875.

In a conversation with Mr. Taylor on this subject, he admitted to me that the Indian houses were on the land prior to the date of his record, but were not continuously occupied by them; this I can well understand from the fact that all the Barclay Sound tribes are itinerant and move to places most frequented by seal and the several kinds of fish that abound in these waters at different seasons of the year. It having been established beyond a doubt, to my mind, that this land was not open to pre-emption by Mr. Taylor, but was in fact a part of the Indian village before its occupation by him, I had no hesitation in declaring it to be an Indian reserve, though I much regret that within it is included the house, garden and orchard of Mr. Taylor. This reserve is shown on accompanying sketch.

#### No. 1

Has a frontage on Somas River of 20 chains, by a depth of 60 chains, and contains 125 acres, about 40 of which is good open land, the remainder is for the most part heavily timbered, and in places liable to overflow during the spring freshets.

Since my return to Victoria, I have by letter dated 13th June, informed the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of my having included in the reserve 20 chains frontage claimed by Mr. Taylor, under his pre-emption of 16th November, 1872, lest an application should be made for a Crown grant in his name.

I have further reserved for this tribe three fishing stations.

#### No. 2.

Situated on the Somas River, 4 miles from Reserve No. 1, contains 300 acres, and includes Kleh-koot, at one time the chief village of this tribe, and Klah-sa-aht'l, their principal salmon fishery. The land on this reserve is for the most part a heavy loam covered with timber of excellent quality; near Kleh-koot there are about 10 or 15 acres which require but little labor to bring them under cultivation.

#### No. 3.

Co-us, on the west bank of the Alberni Canal, at the Second Narrows, contains 110 acres. A shallow river flows through this reserve, in which the Indians obtain a