

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE

KINCOLITH, NASS RIVER, B.C.

February, 25th, 1929

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No.....

ALSO

TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

F. Butterfield Esq:
B.C. Land Surveyor.
314 Sayward Building.
Victoria, B.C.

Re: -BENJAMIN BENSON-Indian-.

Sir,—

The above-named—who is at present, lying here sick—has requested me to write you, to ask if he is at liberty to go ahead and rebuild a house at the mouth of the creek at Alice Arm. He is rather incoherent in his statements and obviously unfit to do anything just now, but the matter seems to cause him much worry. There is every possibility of him recovering and as I understand that you have taken an interest in his case, I am complying with his request.

This matter was first brought to my attention last summer during the time of the survey of Indian Reserves in this district when Benson and other Indians were greatly concerned over the fact that this place at Alice Arm was not included, and had previously been surveyed as Crown land. As there had evidently been Indian buildings—or the ruins of the same—standing at the time of this survey, it appeared to me that this was contrary to the B.C. Land Act, so I drew a map of the place and forwarded it—accompanied by a report of the case—to Mr. Indian Agent, W.E. Collison at Prince Rupert, at the same time I advised the Indians to wait until a reply was received. However they did not act on my advice, but Benson and some of his relatives proceeded to Alice Arm and commenced to rebuild. This, I understand brought them in conflict with a man named McQuire and other whites, as a result of which, the Indians dispatched a message to me, asking me to go up and help them out, but as I had received no instructions, I had no authority to do so. However I communicated with Const. W. Smith of the B.C. Police stationed at Anyox, giving him a general outline of the case and I feel quite sure that it was this officer's tactful handling of the matter, which prevented a fracas.

I have since been informed that Benson has no legal claim to this place at all, but as I understand that you have laid the case before the Indian Commissioner for B.C. and that it is coming up for consideration, I feel confident that a definite decision will be reached before long, and if you will be good enough to reply, it will have the effect of inducing Benson and other Indians, to bide their time and thus avoid complications.

Yours truly

E. G. Newnham
(E. G. Newnham).
Dominion Constable.

*Letter to Mr. L. J. D. 27
Carrington L.D.*

RG 10, C-11-2, vol. 11056
File/dossier 33/8
pt 4

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