

in consideration of certain blankets and other goods presented to them. But these presents were, as I understand, made for the purpose of securing friendly relations between those Indians and the settlement of Victoria then in its infancy, and certainly not in acknowledgment of any general title of the Indians to the lands they occupy.

In reference to the Cowichan settlement it appears from the records, for I cannot speak of this matter from personal knowledge as I had no official connection with Vancouver Island until the year before last that portions of the Cowichan Valley were surveyed by Government and sold in 1859. The settlement dates therefore from that year although the unoccupied lands in this district were not thrown open for preemption until 1862. When these lands were surveyed certain sections containing in all 4635 acres were set apart as Reserves for the use of the Cowichan Indians, and are now held in trust by Government for that purpose with the exception of about 500 acres which have been since withdrawn from this reservation with the consent, as appears from the recorded correspondence in this Office, of the Indians interested therein.