

permitted to continue you will find that the control and possession of most of the lands will come into the hands of one or two Indians. That is one reason why I am satisfied that the location ticket should be applied to our reserves in British Columbia.

*By Mr. Case:*

Q. Can an individual will his land to his descendants?—A. Yes, he can.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. To how many reserves does that system apply?—A. We have it in the Cowichan agency, and the Queen Charlotte Islands; and we wanted to apply it in the Vancouver agency, but it was difficult at the time to secure the funds to proceed with the surveys required. You can quite understand the complicated problem that presents itself to a surveyor who will go in to work out the lands that each Indian claims and endeavour to satisfy all interested parties.

Mr. LICKERS: As between one Indian and another, a transaction of that nature, do you not think it would be better if you had a registry office or some sort of registry office right in your own province so that they could just go there and register their transfers rather than to wait while transfers were sent to Ottawa and came back again?

The WITNESS: Legally I do not think we recognize such transfers.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. You do not recognize such transfers as what?—A. As occurring between individual Indians without reference to the department.

Mr. LICKERS: At the present time it is rather a slow process. If an Indian in British Columbia wants to buy a farm in the Spring and wants to go out and work on it, he would have to wait for the application to go first to Vancouver and then down here to Ottawa and then back again?

The WITNESS: No. With air mail it does not take so long. If an Indian wishes to transfer his holdings to another Indian, and the agent considers it to be in the best interests of all concerned, the commissioner concurs and there would not be any great delay in a matter of that character.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Except as a result of red tape?

Mr. CASE: There is enough of that.

*By Mr. Case:*

Q. Do Indians make a practice of making wills?—A. Yes, they do, sir.

Q. If an Indian dies without a will, does the same process of law apply?—A. The regulations cover those who inherit the possessions of those who die intestate.

Mr. LICKERS: In connection with estates of Indians, as far as land is concerned, do you think it would be better for the Indians to have a central authority in each province, so that an estate could be dealt with immediately rather than to have it hang fire over a period of years?

The WITNESS: Yes; I would say that we have many many estates in British Columbia that have not been settled, or of which the settlement is pending over a long period of years. I think there should be a position something similar to what I understand they have in the United States; I believe it is called an examiner of inheritance or inheritances.

Mr. LICKERS: From your experience in British Columbia, how much of the land would you say is idle or not worked for the simple reason of a dispute as to the real owner?