

NAAS AGENCY

Inspections of Reserves and meetings with the Indians of the Naas Agency occupied the Commission from the 25th September to the 10th October, 1915, Mr. Agent Perry being under examination from the 16th to the 29th December, of the same year.

The Commission found in existence, as defined by the Official Schedule, 63 Reserves allotted to the several tribes and bands of the Naas, these having an aggregate area of 62,854.91 acres, giving 34.94 acres per capita for the Agency Indian population of seventeen hundred and ninety-nine. Investigation disclosed, however, that of this aggregate reserves area a very considerable portion was made up of lands (chiefly in the Tsimpsean Peninsula) utterly useless for Indian or other purposes, and in reality a detriment to the Indians, in giving a fictitious appearance to the extent and value of their holdings.

During their visit to the home of the ancient Nishga nation, the Commissioners were distinctly impressed by the qualities of intelligence, progressiveness, industry and self-reliance displayed by these Indians, and by their requirement of other lands suitable for profitable use. This requirement the Commission has endeavoured to meet by the cutting off of useless allotted lands and the allowance, where available, of other lands applied for by the Indians the potentialities of which render them of greater value to the Indians than the lands so cut off.

The total area of Agency reductions is 11,909.19 acres—principally barren back-lands of the Tsimpsean Peninsula Reserve No. 2—and that of the 130 new Reserves provided for 5,671.00 acres, giving a new total for the Agency of 190 Reserves, with aggregate area of 56,616.72 acres, or a per capita of 31.47 acres for the Agency.

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