

August 20, 1914.

Sir,-

Touching our conversation recently, in connection with the question of right of members of the Songhees band to lease their land, I beg to point out that, under the provisions of section 48 of the Indian Act, the Superintendent General has authority to lease for the benefit of any Indian upon his application for that purpose, the land to which he is entitled, without such land being released or surrendered.

The practice of the Department has been to issue leases on agreements entered into by the Indian and the proposed lessee, embodying terms and conditions necessary for issue of lease.

Before the Department would be in a position to take up the question of leasing, it will be necessary for you to advise the Department as to the recognized owners of individual portions of the Songhees reserve, giving the name of the owner and the number of the lot in each case.

In case any individual Indian who is the recognized owner of a specific portion of land desires to lease his land, it will be necessary for the Department to be furnished with an agreement for lease, as above indicated, and a report from the local Indian agent that the Indian is the recognized owner of the land and that the terms and conditions

proposed

W. B. Ditchburn, Esq.,

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