

INDIAN COMMISSIONER
BRITISH COLUMBIA

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS
BRANCH

P.O. BOX 70,
VANCOUVER, B.C. March 1, 1940.

Dear Sir:

Your File 10153-28.

I have to refer to your letter of February 22nd returning voucher No. 866 for \$25.00 in favor of H. Wyatt-Purden.

Pemberton Reserve can be reached by Union Steamship Co. from Vancouver to Squamish and thence by Pacific Great Eastern Railway to Creekside. The service is semi-weekly and it takes from 12 to 14 hours under favorable conditions to make the trip. The distance from the Agency office to the Pemberton Reserve by this route would be approximately 110 miles. The alternative route is by way of Lytton and Lillooet but it is doubtful if time could be saved by going this way.

Mr. Purden's services will not be required beyond March 30th as the work will be completed by that date.

Mr. Purden has been deeply interested in the promotion of agriculture in the Pemberton valley, especially in the production of potatoes and turnips for select market. His activities in this respect extended to the Indians, who have been constantly encouraged by him to increase their acreage for potato growing purposes. Mr. Purden was mainly instrumental in securing representation for the Indians on the local Pemberton Board handling the marketing of potatoes and no small amount of credit is due him for the very gratifying increase in the Indian potato production last year over that of 1938.

When I decided to assist the Indians to clear new Reserve acreage at Pemberton, it was considered that no one in that locality was better qualified to supervise the work than Mr. Purden, especially in view of his deep interest in the welfare of the Indians and the generous assistance he had already given them in improving their crops. Mr. Purden agreed to give the necessary supervision for \$1.00 per day which he considered enough to meet his out of pocket expenses, and arrangements were made to employ him accordingly.

It would appear that I should have referred the matter to the Department for authority before any definite arrangements were made with Mr. Purden and I regret that this procedure was not followed.

When the work was commenced Constable Higginbottom was not available to supervise because of illness. In any case, had Constable Higginbottom been

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources,
Ottawa, Ont.

.....available

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7600, File 10153-28) Pt.1

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