

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,
VICTORIA, B.C., 1st November, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to state, for your information, that on the 16th August last, I visited the Bella Bella Indians, whose village is situated on Campbell Island, in McLaughlin Bay.

The Hudson's Bay Company claim to be entitled, under their agreement with the Imperial Government, of the 11th October 1861, to 100 acres of land adjoining their trading post here. In the month of March, 1881, Mr. Munro, on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company, consented to the Wesleyans occupying four acres of the land to the north of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort, for church purposes, since which time, under the direction of the Rev. Mr. Tate, an excellent school and mission house have been erected there.

The day following my arrival at Bella Bella, I attended a meeting of the Indians in the Wesleyan school house, in the presence of the Revs. Messrs. Tate and Woods, and Mr. John Clayton, the Agent of the Hudson's Bay Company, when the Indians described to me where the different lands they wished for were situated, as also their fisheries, &c.

The chief, Hum-chit, said that they had been anxious for a long time to build new houses, but were afraid to do so until the boundary between them and the Hudson's Bay Company had been defined; he wished to have assigned to them, all the land on the flat north of the Hudson's Bay Company's fence.

This I considered an equitable proposition, and as Mr. Clayton, on behalf of the Company, offered no objection, I decided accordingly, and subsequently extended this reserve, following the coast northward for a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with an average depth of 1 mile, giving an area of about 1,450 acres, constituting:—

No. 1.

Bella Bella Reserve.—The greater portion of this reservation is well stocked with timber of medium size, the land, as a whole, particularly near the village, is very worthless, but along the coast many small patches could easily be cleared, and made available for garden purposes.

In front of the Company's buildings a number of old houses stand immediately above high water mark; the Company state they have no wish that the Indians should be removed or inconvenienced, but I have very little doubt that they will prefer to be on their own land, particularly as the houses are of little or no value.

No. 2.

Hoo-nees, a small reserve of 20 acres, situated at the mouth of Roscoe Inlet, on which the Indians have cultivated a few potatoes. The remains of two large houses would indicate that it was once the site of a village; at present it is only occupied temporarily by the Indians when moving from village to village.

No. 3.

Quart-cha, a salmon fishing station at the mouth of Quart-cha River, in Roscoe Inlet, contains 30 acres.

The land on this reserve would be valueless but for the plentiful supply of timber it possesses.

No. 4.

Noo-ta, a small reserve of thirty acres, situated near the head of Roscoe Inlet. It is simply a fishing station which the Indians frequent during the autumn when salmon fishing.