

respectively. No certificates of improvement had been granted, and as neither had been in occupation of the land for years, I did not hesitate to treat it as vacant land, and to assign it to the Indians.

There is an abundance of timber on this reserve.

No. 4.

Loch-la, the principal fishing station of the Pemberton Indians, contains 20 acres, and is situated on the Birkenhead River, about seven miles from the village, on the Pemberton Portage. Apart from the fishery it is utterly worthless. Here the Indians have erected substantial drying houses where they cure salmon in very large quantities. Timber of good quality is very plentiful on the reserve.

No. 5.

Is a graveyard of about three-quarters of an acre, at the foot of Pemberton Lake, near the 29-mile house, on land for which Mr. Joseph Smith has obtained a certificate of improvement. There is no doubt that the whole of this land was originally owned by the Indians. Their village stands at the outlet of the lake and one of their principal fisheries is situated here.

I have reserved for the Indians the right of fishing in the Lillooet River from Pemberton Lake one-half mile down stream, but the land on which the village stands having been alienated by the Local Government, is beyond my power of interference.

These Indians are an industrious and peaceable people. Being isolated from the white population, they have no opportunity of obtaining spirituous liquors, and they gain their living by their natural resources. Their fisheries are their natural means of support, which they supplement by hunting, trapping and mining. They own 87 horses and 50 cattle, and being in a district where both summer feed and hay is abundant, there is no reason why they should not be a wealthy pastoral community. Were the claims of the white man obliterated, and the whole of the valley made a reservation, it would solve the difficulty of obtaining land for the numerous Indian families living between Pemberton and Douglas, all of whom are most anxious to concentrate here.

The Pemberton Indians number 203, viz.: 54 men 49 women, and 100 children; the proportion of children to adults being nearly double the general average among Indians. I cannot consider the question of reserves for these Indians settled, as I hope the arrangement I have suggested will be carried out, and the whole of the valley be assigned to them, and I cannot too strongly impress upon the Government the necessity of moving the Local Government to act promptly in this matter. As a precautionary measure, and with a view to prevent the possibility of further complications, I have written to Mr. Walkem to request that no applications for the pre-emption or purchase of land in this locality be entertained until the reserves have been finally dealt with.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.
