

33/261/J.

31st December, 1916.

Dear Mr. Perry:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, in which you enclosed petitions from the Kitchess Tribe (Port Simpson) of Indians on Kutzee-mateen Inlet. One of these petitions refers to fishing privileges, the other being in connection with land, which I am assuming is to be considered in the light of an application for a new reserve as you state that the Indians have already had this piece of land one mile square surveyed by a British Columbia Land surveyor.

In reply to your request that I will be good enough to look into this matter I beg to say that as the Royal Commission of Indian Affairs ceased its labors at the end of 1916 I do not see how it will be possible to entertain any further requests from Indians for new reserves. I note from the Report of the Commission that there has been about 50 new reserves allotted for the Port Simpson band of the Tsimpsean tribe, and while the Commissioner's report has not yet been adopted by the Government of the Province of British Columbia I am given to believe that it will be dealt with at the coming session of the Legislature. If the land which is now being asked for was necessary for the use of the Indians it should have been applied for when the Royal Commission was in that territory.

It is noted in your letter that you state that the land which has been surveyed is one mile square at the head of the Inlet. From the sketch which you forwarded with the petition I conclude that the land which the Indians are asking

C. C. Perry, Esq.,
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RG 10, C-II-2, vol. 11056
File/dossier 33/8
pt 4

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