

On Wednesday, June 24th,

AGENT W. M. HALLIDAY of the Kwakwath Agency attended at the Board Room in Victoria, for examination as to the reserves and conditions in his Agency.

AGENT HALLIDAY upon being sworn was examined by Mr Commissioner Shaw and said that he had been Agent for the past eight years and had a fair knowledge of all the reserves in the Agency. There were in the Agency fifteen principal villages and an Indian population on the 31st March of 1183. That population showed a decrease of about 60 or 70 in the past eight years, a natural decrease, year by year. There had also been an error in the census taken last year and also the death rate at present exceeded the birth rate. There had been no special cause of decrease such as epidemic or accident - it was just a gradual decrease, year by year. The population of 1183 was not an approximation but an absolute census taken with care. Eight years ago the census had also been taken accurately, with all the names of the Indians entered in the book of record. The mortality in the Agency was general and not confined to any particular age or period of life. In the Kwakwath Agency the principal -- indeed virtually the only -- occupation of the Indians at present was fishing, although until last year there had been considerable hand-logging done for the Indians themselves. The fishing done now was mostly for the canneries; about 90 % of the Indians able to work fished for the canneries during the salmon season. As to prevailing general conditions, these Indians were, taken as a whole, in reduced circumstances during the past two years, being much poorer now than formerly, as during the first six years of his occupancy of office they had earned large sums of money by hand-logging. Unfortunately for them nearly all the timbered land was now taken up under timber licenses and there was little available timbered land for hand-logging. The price of logs had not changed materially during the past

68

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