

Columbia was given authority to administer those lands on behalf of itself and the Indians, or, if you like, the Crown-Dominion; so that, I would think, Mr. Stirling, that you could secure action in the matter which you have in mind, by referring to the land division of the province of British Columbia.

By Hon. Mr. Stirling:

Q. Were those cut-off lands very extensive?—A. Yes, quite extensive in the riding which you represent; many thousands of acres were cut-off there; but I think a mistake was made inasmuch as those lands are necessary today if the Indians are going to make any progress in the matter of the cattle industry.

Q. You regret that they were cut off?—A. I do.

Q. Did the Indians receive any other land in compensation for them?—
A. Not in the Okanagan agency, not to any extent.

By Mr. Blackmore:

Q. Who decided that?—A. The Royal Indian Commission in 1912, by Act of Parliament.

Mr. LICKERS: In connection with the transfer of lands from one Indian to another, is that done by location ticket?

The WITNESS: The system of location ticket does not apply to all the reserves in British Columbia; it is only in relatively few places that that system obtains.

Mr. LICKERS: What other system do they use in British Columbia?

The WITNESS: Well, the land just descends from one owner to another. It is not a good system.

Mr. LICKERS: How are they registered as owners?

The WITNESS: They are not registered as owners apart from the information recorded in the Indian office.

Mr. LICKERS: Is that information recorded in your office or at Ottawa?

The WITNESS: It is recorded to some extent in the Indian agent's office, in the office of the local agent concerned.

Mr. LICKERS: If one Indian sells a piece of land to another Indian, either through location ticket or through other transfer in British Columbia, does that transfer have to come here to Ottawa to be confirmed before the sale is completed?

The WITNESS: It should, but it does not always happen. That is one of the weaknesses in the administration of reserves. I am satisfied that we should have a system of location ticket which would apply to all our reserves in British Columbia and especially to reserves that are inhabited. We have many reserves, of course, that are only fishing stations and which are visited during the fishing season by Indians engaged in fishing. But, in the matter of reserves where we have Indians in residence, I should say that the system of location ticket should be extended to them. That would involve, of course, the determination of claims of each Indian which would, in turn, necessitate the survey by a land surveyor.

By Mr. Case:

Q. What do you mean by "location ticket"?—A. It is the evidence of title or ownership by an Indian.

By Hon. Mr. Stirling:

Q. As held by a band or by an individual?—A. Held by an individual. At the present, from time to time, Indians part with their lands to others of the tribe for various reasons, sometimes for material consideration; and if it is