

THE CHAIRMAN:- Where do they get the drink from ?.

A. I dont know.

DR. McKENNA:- How does the Birth-rate compare with the death-rate during your incumbency of the Agency?.

A. They are lessening in this band. That is according to the best figures I can obtain.

Q. For about how many years have they been lessening, do you know?

A. They have been lessening pretty well all along.

THE CHAIRMAN:- What is the principal ~~reasons for this~~ cause of this ?.

A. Tuberculosis, and the children have influenza perhaps once or twice a year. The death rate is largest among the young children last year there were seven births and 10 deaths.

MR. YOUNG:- I see, on reading your report for 1912, that you gave a very high report of the progress of the Indians. That report was justified I suppose ?.

A. Yes.

Q. In that report you speak of their having a band, a Church Choir good buildings etc etc. Is that correct?.

A. Yes.

Q. You also stated that they were not content with the land they had. What was your reason for stating that ?.

A. Well they told me they wanted more.

Q. Were you then dealing with the claim of what is known as "Indian Title" ?.

A. I was simply reporting what the Indians had said to me.

Q. Have any of the Indians ever spoken to you about having more cattle? ~~That~~ That they would like to keep more cattle?.

A. No. They are meeting with the same thing as at the other end of the Island. That is, with cattle being shot.

DR. McKENNA:- When the Indians refused to indicate to you what additional lands, you should stake out for them, did they give you any reason?.

A. Well, they have ~~always~~ <sup>always</sup> been talking about the "Indian Lands" question.

Q. Did they intimate to you that their indicating the additional lands which you were prepared to stake for them, might prejudice their claim to the "Indian Title" ?.

A. Yes. Even when getting the right-of-way for the road through the village.

THE CHAIRMAN:- Are you speaking now of the Skidegate Indians?.

A. Yes.

MR. YOUNG:- You have had recent correspondence with regard to your Masset applications. ?. Correspondence between you and Mr. McMullin, the Assistant Commissioner of Lands, at Prince Rupert, and with the Secretary of the Department with respect to your application for additional land at North Island?.