

112/1/30822.

August 29, 1933.

Dear Colonel Pragnell:

I would be much obliged if you will be good enough to peruse the enclosed letter of Agent Mortimer, dated August 17th, file C-6-233, with enclosed sheaf of correspondence regarding actions of the Game Department against certain Indians found trapping on the Cranberry River at the head of the Nass River, in which connection it has occurred to me that as you will be in Prince Rupert and in touch with Mr. Martin you would be able to ascertain from Mr. Martin why he could not have suggested to the Indians the registration of an alternate line if it were found that the Indians were encroaching upon the trapline already registered by Mr. McCabe, of Aiyansh. I think it would be a good idea to ascertain on what date Mr. McCabe registered his trapline and also whether or not the said trapline is located on his pre-emption or property acquired from the Provincial Government by purchase. If the trapline is on property held under indefeasible title by Mr. McCabe the estate right in the trapline would be his and you will be aware that the registration of a trapline by an Indian carries with it no estate right and where an Indian holds a trapline should the land become alienated by the Province the registered Indian would lose his trapline to the person acquiring the land and the Indian would therefore have to obtain a trapline outside the boundaries of that estate.

I am not wholly satisfied with the manner in which Mr. E. Martin, Game Warden, has handled the situation. I am particularly annoyed at his remarks on page 2 of his report to Mr. Van Dyk, dated April 26th, as follows:-

"There is no doubt that these Indians will continue trapping in that locality until the close of the beaver season when they intend to go to Aiyansh for the celebration of May 24th. The trail to the Cranberry River by way of Kitwancool and Kitwanga Lake should be clear of snow about May 10th and I could go in that way using a horse and take them out, by that time they will have some pelts that should be confiscated and will cover the expense of the investigation of this complaint, if they have left the Cranberry River and returned to the Reserves I could serve the summons."

I consider the attitude of Mr. Martin in this matter to be arbitrary. It certainly does not look like co-operation in an effort to see the Indians established on suitable traplines and I am inclined to the view that Mr. Martin is far too arbitrary and that such attitude lies at the bottom of considerable of his trouble with Mr. Indian Agent H. Reed about whose traplines I wrote you under separate cover.

Kindly look carefully into this matter and see if the

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Inspector of Indian Agencies,
C/o W. E. Collison, Esq.,
Indian Agent, Prince Rupert,

Provincial...

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