

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF B. C.

MEETING WITH THE LILLOOET TRIBE OR BAND OF INDIANS ON LILLOOET

No. 1 RESERVE, November 4th, 1914.

TOMMIE ADOLPH IS SWORN TO ACT AS INTERPRETER,

THE CHAIRMAN explains to the assembled Indians as to the scope and purpose of the Commission, and

CHIEF JAMES RETASKET ADDRESSES THE COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

I am very glad that you have come to see us people - We have been expecting you for some time. It has been quite a while since we were talking about our Treaty, and we are very glad that you have come over to see us here. All the other Indian Chiefs are here to see about the Treaty. We have been asking for a long time that our rights be settled, and that is the main thing that we want to settle, and all the other things come behind. Our friends the whites they have been taking our lands away from us, and there is nothing left to us, and everything that we use - they stop us from using it. We think we have a right to claim our rights in this country because we owned this country before the whites came to this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: We understand what you are talking about, and we have heard a good deal of what is called the Aboriginal Rights. We have nothing to do with that matter however. That matter is now in the hands of the Dominion Government to be settled in the courts - It will go before what is called the Exchequer Court of the Dominion Government, and the Government is going to the trouble to employ a good lawyer for the Indians and also one for the other side so that the Indians will not be put to any expense and will not have to pay out one cent for the services of a lawyer. If the Exchequer Court decides in your favour, the Dominion Government, if they wish, could appeal to the Privy Council in England. If they decide against the Indians the Indians can appeal to the Privy Council in England so that the Indians will be sure to have justice done then, and already an Order in Council has