

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION.

VICTORIA, B.C., 31st October, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to state, for your information, that I arrived at River's Inlet, situated at the northern end of Queen Charlotte Sound, on the 5th August, at the head of which I met Poot-las, the chief of the Owekano tribe, and most of his people, with whom I had a long and friendly conversation, after which he, accompanied by several of the tribe, showed me the land they wished to be reserved for them, and of which I made a thorough examination, and subsequently reserved the following lots, with which the Indians expressed themselves perfectly well pleased.

No. 1.

Ka-tit, contains 950 acres. It is situated on the banks of the Owekano River, commencing at the boundary line of the River's Inlet Canning Co., as shown on the enclosed map.

This reserve I consider of especial value; the land for the most part fronting on the river is level, rich, and easily cleared, while that extending toward the mountain is thickly covered with valuable timber.

Their salmon fisheries extend the length of the reserve (about two miles), while a limited number of oolachans are caught here during the spring.

No. 2.

Kil-ta-la, a reserve of 115 acres, on the Kil-ta-la River, about one mile from its confluence with River's Inlet. This is a good salmon stream; a small portion of the land which stands above high water mark may easily be cleared and cultivated, while 50 or 60 acres are wild meadow, where about 100 tons of good swamp hay may annually be obtained.

No. 3.

Cock-mi, containing 24 acres, is situated on an unnamed island, at the mouth of River's Inlet, about two miles east of Adderbrook Point. It is a favorite camping ground for Indians when travelling, sealing or hunting. Halibut and salmon abound, and near here a large quantity of herring spawn (a delicacy to the Indians) is collected.

About eight acres of land, which is of good quality, have at one time been under cultivation; the remainder is rough and barren and heavily timbered.

Prior to the establishment last year of the cannery at the mouth of the Owekano River, these Indians lived in a very primitive manner; the employment furnished them, so convenient to their homes, however enables them to contrast favorably with the tribes to the south of them. Although the land occupied by these Indians is of the richest description, only four acres have latterly been cultivated. Salmon, halibut and game are still their principal articles of diet, and these are easily procured.

The Rev. Mr. Tate, who recently took the census of this tribe, informed me that the total population numbered 150.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner