

Pemberton Meadows, situated in the heart of the Cascade range of mountains, form the only valley of any importance within a radius of 50 miles; from its isolated position it is the most desirable location for an Indian reservation that I have yet met with, and I think that every means should be taken to secure it for that purpose.

I regret to say that my efforts in this respect were rendered almost futile from the fact that in the early days of the Province, almost every available acre here was pre-empted or recorded for purchase, and in most cases either a certificate of improvement obtained or an instalment of the purchase money paid, which virtually barred my interference. This difficulty may, I think, be overcome, for the land though nominally held as just stated by certificate of improvement or instalment of purchase money paid, has in every instance been abandoned, in some cases the owners having left the country, and there is not a white man resident within this entire valley. I have ascertained that the taxes due on these lands under the Assessment Act 1876 have never been paid, and I believe that were the payment of these taxes enforced by the Local Government, the land in every instance would revert to the Crown.

These remarks apply equally to Reserve No. 5 at the foot of Pemberton Lake, where there is a village and a valuable fishery, also a graveyard. This land was recorded on the 14th February, 1863, by J. Smith, and a certificate of improvement issued, but it was abandoned by him years ago, and he now lives at Clinton.

A recommendation to the effect above mentioned by the Dominion Government to the Hon. Mr. Walkem, the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, would, I think, be the speediest and most effectual method of having this matter placed on a proper footing, and in that event the land might be dealt with and assigned to the Indians, who fully recognise the importance of possessing it. I have had a rough sketch made to show, as far as I am able to ascertain, the position of each claim, with a tabular statement of the facts connected with their respective titles.

After a careful examination of this section of country, accompanied by the Indians, I assigned to them all the vacant land of any value therein, and made the five following reserves:

#### No. 1.

Comprises the land claimed by the Indians as having been given them by Governor Douglas; it contains about 160 acres, situated on the north branch of the Lillooet River, of which five acres have been cultivated. A large portion is subject to overflow, but it produces an unlimited quantity of excellent hay. Cottonwood, spruce and cedar grow here in sufficient quantities for all the requirements of the tribe.

#### No. 2.

Between the Lillooet and Squamish Rivers, on the upper Pemberton Meadows, contains about 80 acres, all of which are of the richest description; 30 acres lie sufficiently high to be above the reach of the overflow, and can be cultivated with great advantage. The remainder, though subject to submersion, is valuable as meadow land. There is a limited quantity of cottonwood timber on the banks of the Squamish River. The Indians have built good, substantial houses and have cultivated potatoes and other vegetables extensively on this land.

This reserve is situated on the land pre-empted by George Dunne, on 7th March, 1863, and abandoned by him.

#### No. 3.

Three-quarters of a mile east of Reserve No. 1, is known as Ne-Suck, and contains 1,300 acres. It is situated at the mouth of the Lillooet River, between the north and south branches, and is bounded on the east by Pemberton Lake. Nearly all this land is at times subject to overflow. Some 20 acres on the north branch of the river is above high water mark and is partly under cultivation.

I find by the records that two pre-emptions of 160 acres each were made here by John Rogers, on 5th March, and Frederick Sylvester, on 9th March, 1863,