

Squamish Indian Reserve No. 1:-.

North Vancouver B.C. Dec-12-1922.

Mr. W. E. Ditchburn Esq:

Chief Inspector of Indian Agencies,

Victoria B.C.

CHIEF INSPECTOR'S OFFICE
DEC 15 1922
VICTORIA, B. C.

Sir:

I had one meeting of some of the chiefs and members of the Squamish Nation of Indians, when it was decided to have another meeting when all the chiefs could be present for the reason that the Squamish Indians desire to act as a tribe instead of bands, as they had previously gone on record as resolving to have tribal ownership of the reserves, and the consolidation of all funds to the credit of the several bands of the tribe.

In view of the fact, that at this time the chiefs are not assembled in any one reserve, it has been difficult to have a full meeting of the chiefs and representatives.

And knowing that the requirements of the tribes should have been forwarded to you by this time, I take the liberty to forward them by my own observations according to my knowledge of what they have been demanding gathered during my office as Secretary of the tribe since the year 1913; and which I respectfully submit, as part of my report in the work, in which I have been recently engaged.

The Squamish tribe is at present undecided as to the course to pursue, for the reason that they do not know if their prayer for tribal ownership has been allowed, if that was allowed it would greatly facilitate matters, while on the other hand if they are to be dealt with as bands it would make complications as to land required for the future. Viz. under tribal ownership of all reserves, according to the findings of the Royal Commission the per capita acreage would be in the neighborhood of sixteen acres, while if the tribe was to be recognized in bands of the tribe some of them would have about an acre, while others would have more than the per capita acreage of the tribe as per the Commission, all of which causes them to ^{know} how to proceed.

During the negotiations by the P.G.E.R.Co. for the purchase of several reserves of the tribe at Squamish B.C. it was the belief and understanding of the tribe, that if they refused to sell their land the Railroad Company would expropriate the reserves as it was required for railway purposes and requirements, and the Indians, rather than delegate the negotiations to a board of arbitration they negotiated with the purchasing Company, the deal of which is now history, but before the P.G.E.Co. closed the deal, said deal was sanctioned by the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs.

By statements of the Indians to me, and during the visit of the Commission, to the reserve in question, the Commission encouraged the Indians of the Stawamus, Yekwaupsum and other bands to look for Crown Lands, which if available would be added, or be made a part of their, now small reserves, such action was taken by the Indians but no Crown Lands ~~was~~ available, which would be suitable to the Indians.

In the case of the Kowtain, Seelachem, and Skowisun, Bands, the members have made applications, to the Commission and to the Department for additional lands in lieu of parts of the reserves lost by erosion, but to my knowledge at this time of writing they have not received their demands, although I am aware that these matters have been considered by the Department.

It is desired by the Squamish tribe that such laws be enacted which, would protect the reserves from erosion, in that the Provincial Government would not allow any undertaking, on the inland waters which may have an ill effect on the Indian reserves.

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copy of my letter to you

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