33/S/8/18360

July 19, 1930.

Sir:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 14th. instant in regard to the matter of the 19 parcels of land which we endeavoured to have surveyed with your people's co-operation some time ago without favourable result. It is noted that you state that the parcels of 5 acres each are not large enough; but the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia considered that, in addition to the reserves which have already been surveyed and the old reserves which they confirmed, the 19 parcels of 5 acres each would be sufficient wherewith to meet the reasonable requirements of the Nass River Indians. The territorial claim which you have mentioned was, with others of a like nature, considered by the Commission most carefully with the result that such territorial claims were not entertained as being requisite or necessary for the Indians. I regret not being able to consider this claim as I have not the power of the Royal Commission; and the Provincial Government has absolutely refused to set aside any more free lands than those which have already been approved on the recommendation of the Royal Commission; and has informed this office that unless the 19 parcels are definitely located and surveyed by December 31st. of this year, the claim to these parcels must be definitely abandoned. In my letter to you of May 13th. I gave you a list of the parcels which the surveyors could not locate without the aid of the Indians who could give them full particulars. These parcels were applied for by Indian Agent Perry and Rev. J. B. McCullagh at the time the Royal Commission visited your people. While it is understood that your people asked for larger parcels, nevertheless the Royal Commission did not see fit to make them larger than 5 acres each. Therefore, unless these parcels are accepted by the Indians sooner, the claim must be abandoned on the date mentioned.

You have mentioned in your letter that the Indians are not as good Christians as formerly and you give as your reason that the Government has disregarded certain passages in the Holy Bible. Perhaps I should, with due reverence, point out that while the passage you mention, viz: Proverbs 22-28 does exist and refer to landmarks, the Indian Department is not trying to remove any landmarks, but is trying to establish them so that they may not be removed in the future. I think you should consider in this case verse 17 of the same chapter which is equally as important as that which you have quoted. "Hear the words of the wise" is the best injunction I can offer at present. The Indian Department is not liable to do anything that will seriously affect the welfare of its Indian wards. We are trying

Mr.James Adams,
Chief Councillor,
Aiyansh,
Nass River, B.C.

to.....