

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,

VICTORIA, B.C., 18th February, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—On the 30th August I reached Lillooet, a place of importance in the early history of British Columbia, but now almost deserted. The Indians who inhabit the suburbs of this town are peaceable, intelligent and industrious. They are expert canoe men, and live on very friendly terms with their white neighbors, who readily employ them as packers, teamsters and farm servants; they number 35 men, 32 women, and 28 children, making a total of 117. Noidesk (James) is their chief; they own 133 horses and 23 cattle.

The Indians stated that the land on which their village stands, was given to them in the year 1859 or 1860 by the then Governor, the late Sir James Douglas, but there does not appear to have been any record made of this fact, and subsequently the land in question was laid out in lots, and sold; Lillooet, therefore, forms no exception to the generality of the reserves defined by me, and I consequently found it wholly impossible to assign to these Indians such an area of land as in my opinion would be adequate to their requirements. The chief, and the principal men of the tribe, I found most reasonable, and they appeared fully to recognise the difficulty of the position, viz.: that the few places of value in the vicinity having been sold to the whites, were placed beyond my control.

I did for them the best I could, and laid off five reservations. Although the soil is light and sandy, good crops of grain and vegetables are raised, and what is more extraordinary, melons, cucumbers and even grapes ripen in the open air.

No. 1.

Contains 940 acres, and includes their village, church and stabling; it lies to the west of the town of Lillooet, and to the north of Cayoosh Creek. About 38 acres adjoining the village are under fence and partly cropped; there is an upper bench of 120 to 150 acres, which may be cultivated with advantage should it be found possible to procure water for irrigation; the remainder is rough and hilly, extending to the base of the mountains, and is of value as a summer pasturage, and also for the fire wood it affords.

Mr. Hoey, whose land adjoins that of the Indians on the east, and who has a right to a portion of the water of a creek from which the town of Lillooet is supplied, allows the Indians the use of a small quantity, sufficient for their gardens. I have reserved the surplus water of this creek, and I believe that when the provisions of the Land Act are enforced, with regard to ditches, it will be found that there is a sufficiency for both whites and Indians.

The Indians are sanguine that a portion of the water of a creek, which empties into the Fraser River about two miles above the town of Lillooet, can be diverted from its course, and brought upon their land by means of a ditch. The feasibility of this should be determined for them before they incur any expense, and the surveyor should be instructed to supply the necessary information.

I find upon examination that lot No. 1, block 1, as shown on the enclosed map, adjoining the Indian village, and at present under cultivation by them, was sold to Mr. H. Holbrook, on 2nd May, 1861, at the upset price of £20; £2 only by way of deposit having been paid by him. Mr. Holbrook has since become insolvent, and I believe that this lot, which contains five acres, could be purchased from the trustees of the estate on easy terms, and it would be a very great hardship to the Indians to deprive them of it.

No. 2..

Known as Tow-in-ock, is a reserve of 190 acres, situated eight miles south of Lillooet, on the right bank of Fraser River; it includes too small reservations