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19th July, 1913.

The Hon. W. J. Roche, M.D.,
Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
OTTAWA.

Sir,

On the 27th May last, I, on behalf of the Commission re Indian Reserves in B. C., wired the Hon. Mr. Crothers, the then Acting Superintendent-General, for all papers regarding the Cowichan and Salt Spring Agricultural lease of a portion of the Cowichan Reserve No. 1., occupied by the Somenos Band, and recommended stay of proceedings regarding farther lease, pending investigation by Commission. These papers were forwarded on the 28th May, and were received by our Secretary in due course, and laid before the Commission, and Mr. McLean, the Secretary of the Department, wired me that action had been stayed pending the investigation.

The papers referred to were wired for and received by the Commission before the Order-in-Council of the 10th June last, defining the powers and authorities of the Commission was passed. Prior to the last mentioned date, a great many matters not embraced by the Agreement between the Governments of the Dominion and of British Columbia, had been referred to the Commission to investigate and deal with. Many of these matters had been so referred by the Department of Indian Affairs; that is, they were forwarded by Mr. J. D. McLean.