

5-3-6.

Cranbrook, B.C.
March 19th. 1945.

Chief Basil David, Indian Reserve,
Creston, B.C.

With reference to the complaint of Johnny George at a meeting of the band on the 6th. instant that a part of his hay meadow on Nick's Island had been rented by the Indian Agent with your consent to Arthur Peterson on a half-share basis, July 27th. 1944, and that he had received no returns from same, I would advise that on my return to Cranbrook I looked into this matter and found that Mr. Indian Agent Irwin raised the question about this lease on July 17th. 1942 with the Indian Commissioner - a copy of his letter being enclosed herewith.

He was advised that the usual procedure is to credit payments of any revenue from such a lease of Indian lands to the Indian himself, but informed him that if he would furnish us with further information we would be able to deal with the matter in detail.

From the foregoing it would be evident that the Indian Agent recognized Johnny George's ownership of the ground in question, and if such is the case, section 21 of the Indian Act states that:

"No Indian shall be dispossessed of any land on which he has improvements without receiving compensation for such improvements, at a value approved by the Superintendent General Etc."

It would appear that this lease produced, as a half share, 946 3/4 bushels of wheat which has sold for \$ 1,549.16 to which probably will be added further small payments when the Grain Producers Certificates mature.

(J. Coleman).
Inspector of Indian Agencies.

JC/Y.
Enc.

COPY FOR MR. COLEMAN.