

I was unable to make a census, but I am informed by Mr. Clayton, the Hudson's Bay Company Agent, at Bella-Bella, that the population is about 167.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

INDIAN RESERVE COMMISSION,
VICTORIA, B.C., 30th October, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to state, for your information, that I visited the Quaw-she-lah tribe of Indians, who reside at Smith's Inlet, Queen Charlotte Sound, on the 2nd August, where I was met by the chief, Pen-Kwe-te, who, after the usual conversation, stated there was no farming lands in his country, but that he wished to have the site upon which their village stood, and the fishery at the head of the Inlet, secured to them, and to be assured that they would not be prevented from hunting on the mountain, or from fishing for halibut and herring in the sea.

I explained that the mountains were as free for him to hunt upon as ever, and that he would enjoy the right to fish in the ocean in common with others. He then accompanied me to the points referred to by him, where I made the following reserves, with which he expressed himself satisfied.

No. 1.

Wy-cess, upon which stands the village of the Quaw-she-lahs, contains 300 acres of land, and is situated at the mouth of the Sam-mo River, about 20 miles from the mouth of Smith Inlet. This plot does not contain a single acre of land fit for cultivation, but is thickly covered with spruce, hemlock and cedar of medium size. An abundant supply of salmon, however, is obtained from the Sam-mo River, the right to fish for two miles above tidal water being reserved for their use.

This reserve includes four small islands adjacent to, and immediately north of the village, upon the outer of which is a burial ground.

A man named James Reid has given notice of his intention to make application to purchase 160 acres of land situated opposite to the reserve at Sam-mo River, on its east bank, to which the Indians offer no objections, and I am of opinion that the establishment of a cannery here would be of great benefit to them, opening a field of employment which would tend materially to improve the condition of this tribe.

No. 2.

Ne-kite, a reserve of 170 acres, is situated 1 mile from its mouth, and on the right bank of the Nekite River, a stream which flows into Smith's Inlet, at its head.

This is a valuable salmon fishery, and the land included in the reserve being formed by the alluvial deposit from the river, is rich, and will, in time, no doubt be turned to good account. It is at present heavily timbered with spruce and hemlock.

So far as I could learn, these Indians have hitherto avoided as much as possible all intercourse with the whites; they are, however, well supplied with fish and game, both of which are found in great quantities.

The population, according to Mr. Clayton, is about 44.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

P. O'REILLY,
Indian Reserve Commissioner.