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ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

COWICHAN AGENCY : EVIDENCE AS TO THE MANNER OF TAKING
"SURRENDERS" FROM THE INDIANS.

On the 22nd July 1913, Mr. W. E. Ditchburn, Inspector of Indian Agencies, was examined as to the manner of taking surrenders, from the Indians.

THE CHAIRMAN :- Have you had any experience as to the course taken when it is proposed to take a "surrender". Has the course been to take the surrender at a meeting of all the Indians of the tribe, or only at a meeting of those interested in the particular piece of land, which it is proposed shall be surrendered ?.

A. It has been done both ways. The Department took a surrendered on the Skuts Reserve, for the Canadian Northern Railway right-of-way, and only the local Indians were consulted

MR WHITE :- And they received the proceeds ?.

A. Yes.

MR SHAW :- Would we have a proof of that by the surrender of the Agricultural Grounds at Cowichan .

A. Yes, I believe in that case only the Somenos Band were consulted.

Q. Does that Reserve where the Agricultural Grounds are, belong to the Somenos ?.

A. Yes.

Q. Does the land on the North side, where the heavy timber is, belong to the Somenos ?.

A. Yes.

Q. Have they location tickets there ?.

A. I think they have.

Q. This, on this plan here belongs to the Somenos, and this, where that heavy timber is, belongs to the Somenos ?.

A. Yes. The Somenos section of the Cowichan Reserve Number 1, comprises, Range 2, Sections, 12, 13 & 14, Range 3, Sections 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16, Range 4, Sections, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 16, Range 5, sections 12 to 16 inclusive, part of section 17, and half of section 18, Range 6, Sections 15 and 16. This is all within the one Reserve.

MR WHITE :- Were location tickets issued to the Indians for all that Somenos Reserve ?.

A. I think so, but I would not like to say definitely that such was the case.

THE CHAIRMAN :- What do you mean by a "Location ticket" ?.