

The members of the Commission, accordingly supposed that in answer to their resolution of the 20th May, they might be requested to take up and deal with many of such matters. Therefore in order to avoid the necessity of going over the road again, the Commissioners considered it advisable to enquire into matters of that character so referred to them or brought under their notice, prior to the receipt of the Order-in-Council above mentioned. I state this, in order to explain why the papers mentioned were wired for. Of course the matter is quite without the authorities conferred upon the Commissioners, either by the Commission or the Order-in-Council, and the papers are accordingly returned. I must, however, on behalf of the Commissioners, express regret that these papers were not returned immediately after receiving the Order-in-Council. The only excuse I can offer is, that owing to the pressure of other business, the members of the Commission have not had an opportunity of reading the Minutes of Evidence and Proceedings taken in the course of their travels through the Cowichan Agency, and the matter escaped their attention.

But as we have, as a matter of fact, enquired into the matter, and as the Indians interested in the land in question express themselves as very much opposed to the proposed lease being granted The Commissioners beg leave to draw your attention to one or two