

Chief Councillor Alfred Adams remarked that some of the Indians in other parts of British Columbia are being treated about a thousand times better than those of the Queen Charlotte islands, some of them having as much as 90,000 acres and some as much as 50,000 acres. He continued: "While the entire band here, numbering 500, have only 2000 acres between them. We want if possible to meet your commission at a joint meeting of the councils of the Nasaset and Kidegate tribes.

The Chairman: Who was it wrote a letter to me with respect to your going down to Kidegate?

Mr Thomas Deasy: I wrote a letter to Mr Bergeron asking if the Council of the Nasaset Indians could be taken on to Kidegate, but the reply you sent has not as yet been received.

Alfred Adams: Our idea is to give you fullest information of our troubles here and in order to do so we would like to give it to you in full while you are right here in our village. We will give you what you can and then what we cannot give you here we can give you after consulting our Kidegate friends. We want to see the Kidegate people and give you our joint views after a joint meeting with the Council of the Kidegate Indians. We have only small reserves and the Kidegate people have only small reserves and we do not want to say anything that might conflict with what they have to say. We have not been treated as other wards of the government have. Our trouble is that other Indians of British Columbia receive better treatment than us in every way and we do not know the reason of it.

The Chairman: That letter which Mr Deasy wrote us was received stating that you wished to be conveyed to Kidegate after the meeting here and an answer was sent you stating that we would take you down but had no means of bringing you back. That letter apparently has not reached you yet. You stated that you wanted to put some questions to the Commission before you adjourned. What are they?

Alfred Adams: Why are we treated in such a way? While the other Indians in this province are getting so much more than us? It strikes us that the law states that all Indians should be treated alike. We are wards of the government and as wards of the government we should be treated like every other Indian. It is a kind of problem to us - a real problem to us - that these things should be so.

The Chairman: You want to get our answer to the question you put before you have your consultation at noon.

A. Yes.

The Chairman: Well where are these Indians living that have from thirty to ninety thousand acres in their reserves.

A. I could not say right away but I have read of it. I may have been mistaken. Some of them I am positive have 30,000 acres.

Dr McKenna: Are you referring to a whole agency or to only one band?

A. One community only.

The Chairman: In reply to that question, the Commission have to say to you that they do not know what governed the minds of previous commissioners who allotted these reserves -- why they gave such large quantities of land in one locality and such small quantities in another, but possibly it may have been due to the fact that they did not meet the chiefs of the band here. If they had met the chiefs of the band and they had made requests for more and the bands did not get more we do not know but what it might have been given. As far as I have been able to gather these large allotments of land which you refer to have been made down in the West where the Indians are far removed from the sea. They catch no fish and the only way these people can make their living is by farming and it is quite likely that in making these large allotments they gave them an allowance of land which would enable them to earn their living