



Stikine.

TELEGRAPH CREEK, B.C.
August. 29.th.1939.

Sir,

An incident has come to light in regard to trap-ground matters and the regulation of same, which is here reported for what it is worth, if anything.

It concerns a "white" trapping ground now registered and owned by Mr Barney Mc Hugh of Dease Lake, and a map of which area is herewith submitted. It will be seen that it is much desired by the Indian Billy Frank, for not only is it in the middle of his grounds, but it is the only real bit of Beaver country on that trapground, the rest being very poor indeed hence the large looking ground. The ground did once belong to the Indians but during some mining excitement some 8 years ago, it was lost to the whites.

However Barney McHugh is very old, and does not really trap this ground as he has to go up 500 feet at least, and has verbally promised to the Indian Dept when he gives up. We have helped him along quite a bit, for he can hardly keep him-self.

Being at Wrangell and on my way back from Atlin, Mc Hugh was met at the Dock, he also was going up river to T/creek. He was "broke" and asked for some help which was promised him over the winter, of course privately. He stated that he would sign over anything at all to me for such assistance and I told him there was nothing to sign, not thinking of his trap-ground then.

Returning to his cabin at Laketon on Dease Lake, his rupture had not improved and so Dr Meyer was instructed by the Province to go out and look him over. It was heard that he was passing out. Therefore Dr Meyer was requested to take a written statement out for the old man to sign, giving his ground over to this Office. He accepted the statements, and has them still, but stated that he would not sign anything at all, because Inspector Van Dyk and Constb Gray told him not to sell his trap-line to the Indian Department. It is thought that the old fellow is now on Relief, so that might have induced him to alter his mind.

However the main point here is that if people are told not to sell to the Indian Department, it becomes rather hard to straighten out an absurde line as the one shown on the map- which is a fact no matter who owns the two lines in question. If another white trapper obtains Mc Hugh's line- he will at once wish for an extention, which it seems can be expected at some future date.

Let 58 30
Aug 130 30

W. Side Dease L.
Book 10
Map 73 D-5

I am.

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Major. D.M. MacKay.

Indian Commissioner
VANCOUVER, B.C.

for B.C. Harper Reed Indian Agent.



RG 10, C-11-2, vol. 11293

INDIAN AFFAIRS
AFFAIRES INDIENNES

National Archives of Canada
Archives nationales du Canada

001809