

(COPY)

B. C. Electric Railway Co. Ltd.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

May 9th, 1913.

38546

Peter Byrne, Esq.,  
Indian Office,  
New Westminster, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

RE FRASER VALLEY RIGHT-OF-WAY, MATSQUIE  
INDIAN RESERVE.

I received your letter of the 22nd, ultimo re payment of this Company for timber cut on the above named Indian Reserve, during construction work on the railway.

The Company on receipt of the Department's claim of \$5.00 per thousand feet Board Measure, last year, considered the same excessive, and through its assistant engineer, Mr. Sinclair, called on Mr. McDonald, who was then Indian Agent, and after discussing the matter with him intimated that the Company was willing to pay \$1.00 per thousand feet. Mr. McDonald agreed with Mr. Sinclair that he would forward the payment at the lower rate to the department, with a recommendation that the same be accepted. Accordingly the payment (\$160.25) was made by the Company.

The Company based its contention that the claim was excessive on the fact that it had paid \$1.00 per thousand feet to other owners along the line, and in some cases had even paid less. Besides this, the trees cut on the reserve were left on the ground, and the Indians, after cutting up the same as cord wood readily disposed of it. I may also say that the trees cut down were pretty well scattered, and were in danger of being blown down at any time, and doing damage to the property of the Indians.

For these reasons I think you will agree with me, that the payment already made is sufficient, and I should be glad to hear from you, that you had recommended the Department to make no further claim.

Yours truly,  
V. LAURSEN,  
Solicitor.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7671, File 22153-16 B.C.E)

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