

151/536/L.

Your No. 788.

21st April, 1920.

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant in which you state that claims have been staked on Indian reserves without the stakers first obtaining from the Indian Agent a permit to prospect as required by the Dominion Order-in-Council, and that the local Government Agent had duly recorded these claims.

In reply I beg to say that on receipt of your letter I telephoned to the Deputy Minister of Mines on this question and he asked me to write him on the matter. However, on the same day he telephoned me stating that the Government Agent had written to him on this question and the Deputy Minister informed me that he was explaining to the Government Agent that before claims could be recorded or staked on Indian Reserves it was first necessary to carry out the provisions of the Dominion Order-in-Council by obtaining from the Indian Agent a permit to prospect on Indian reserves.

I cannot understand how the Government Agent at Prince Rupert could imagine otherwise as he has been furnished with copies of the Dominion Order-in-Council from which it is very plain that the first procedure to be taken with regard to prospecting on Indian reserves is to obtain from an Indian Agent a permit for this purpose.

In any event no lease for the surface rights could be acquired from our Department by anyone unless the regular procedure was carried out.

Your obedient servant,

G. C. Perry, Esq.,
Indian Agent,

Prince Rupert, B. C.

Chief Inspector of Indian Agencies.

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