

565
July 29th, 1913.

Alex. Herd Esq.,

President,

Cowichan Agricultural Society,

DUNCAN. B. C.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, in which you comment upon the letter of the Indian Reserve Commission, to the Hon. Dr. Roche, respecting the lease of what you term "The Society's Grounds" at Duncan.

Your letter was laid before the Commission and I must say that we were quite as much surprised at the contents of your letter, as you seem to have been at the contents of ours. You say that we seem to have overlooked or ignored the most important fact from your standpoint, "that is, that in 1897 the Society bought and paid the Indians for the land in question at the rate of \$30.00 per acre, which was, at that time a very high price for unimproved land in that locality".

Our surprise is caused by the fact that this is the first intimation that the Commission had of any such thing. It did not appear in any of the files transmitted to us by the Department, and it was not stated by any person in the interview which we had at Duncan. The Commission are sorry that this fact was overlooked, but certainly the fault is not on the part