

33-6-10

April 10, 1945.

D. M. MacKay, Indian Commissioner for B.C., c/o Indian Affairs
Branch, Dept. of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Ont.

Enclosed herewith is a file of correspondence with respect to the transfer of Sandy and Seal Islands to the Department for the use of the Comox Band of Indians. I would refer you particularly to the Provincial Superintendent of Land's letter of May 21st, 1945, from which it would appear that in the event of such an exchange the Province would claim the foreshore of these Islands but that no disposition would be made without first consulting our Department. This was taken up with Mr. Indian Agent Todd and in his letter of May 27th, 1945, he advised that this would not be satisfactory to the Indians apparently for the reason that it would leave the matter of ownership of the foreshore in question and leave it open to the Province to dispose of the rights thereon should they wish to do so, and the matter appears to be deadlocked on this issue.

It appears to me that as the Admiralty would profit considerably by the proposed exchange between the "Spit" and these Islands, possibly they may be able to arrange matters so that the foreshore rights could be transferred to us intact in the event of an exchange. However, I thought possibly you would like to discuss the matter with the Department as requested in their letter of the 2nd ultimo.

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Encl.

J. Coleman,
Inspector of Indian Agencies