

Prince Rupert, B.C.,
August 17th, 1922.

Minutes of meeting held at the Indian Office, Prince Rupert, (Skeena River Indian Agency), on August 16th and 17th, 1922, for the purpose of representatives of the Executive Committee of the Allied Tribes of British Columbia Indians (Rev. P. R. Kelly and Mr. Ambrose Reid) discussing with the representatives of the Metlakatla Band of Indians matters relating to Indian affairs being dealt with following the Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia.

August 16th A meeting commenced at 10 a.m. Rev. Peter R. Kelly in the chair. Present Mr. Ambrose Reid, Councillors W. M. Leighton and C. P. Ryan, of the Metlakatla Indian Council, and Indian Agent C. C. Perry.

The report and recommendations of the Royal Commission were reviewed, also matters relating to fisheries discussed. Councillors Leighton and Ryan did not consider that they were authorized to speak for all the Metlakatla people, and the Indian Agent suggested that a quorum at least of the elected council be gotten together for a full discussion if other councillors could be found at any of the canneries. Telephone messages were sent to councillors, they being at their fishing on the Skeena River and elsewhere. This meeting adjourned at 12.30 p.m. to meet again at 10 a.m. August 17th.

August 17th The meeting resumed at 10 a.m. Rev. P. R. Kelly in the chair. Present Mr. Ambrose Reid, Councillors C. P. Ryan, W. M. Leighton and Henry Prevost, and Messrs Charles and Peter Venn, ex-councillors of Metlakatla, also Indian Agent C. C. Perry.

All matters touched upon as recorded in the official transcript of evidence given before the Royal Commission were reviewed; additional lands applications discussed, and fisheries and other domestic matters dealt with.

The proposed cut-offs, recommended by the Commission, at Tsimpshean Peninsula, Shoowathlans, Point Veitch, and Willocloough, were strongly objected to by the Metlakatla Indians.

The Indians insisted that provision for the continuance of exclusive commercial fishing under salmon drag seine or otherwise for the Metlakatla Indians, at Shoowathlans and Cloyah Reserves, is imperative; also that in order to meet the needs of the Indians in respect to their winter supply of food fish, applications be made for the Mc Nichol, Silver, and Denise Arm creeks, near Prince Rupert and Metlakatla. These latter three creeks are not sockeye creeks, but contain humpback, coho and steelhead salmon.

The proposal to have the Nass River reserves Nos 10 and 11, also the Zimagord Reserve of the Kitsumkaylum Band, transferred from these bands to the Metlakatla Band was not thought to be advisable or feasible.

The matter of independent gill-net licenses for Indians having been adjusted last season and this, there was no grievance along this line now as when the Commission was here.

A full title to all the reserves was asked for; also the subdivision of the Reserves for individual Indians who, applying for enfranchisement, would hold his or her own title in due course.

It was requested that the Department take steps to adjust the grievance of the Metlakatla Indians against the City of Prince Rupert Corporation in respect to the Shoowathlans Indian Reserve right-of-way acquired by the City without ~~the~~ satisfactory compensation to the Indians. The Indian Agent has done everything possible to adjust this matter, but it still remains a matter of contention between the Metlakatla people and the City. The complete correspondence file of Agent Perry was examined by Chief Inspector Ditchburn and returned to him.

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