

MEMORANDUM

1-9

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Commissioner's Office,

Victoria, B.C., April 5, 1932.

A delegation of the Indians of the Saanich Bands comprising Chief David Latesse, Tommy Paul, Chris Paul, Baptiste Paul, Jimmy Jim, Edwin Smith, of South Saanich Reserve No.1; Louie Pelkey, Joseph Kelly, Johnny Plaxton, Sam Thomas, Marshall Pelkey, Alex Joseph, Alphonsus Kelly, of East Saanich Reserve No.2; Edward Jim of Union Bay Indian Reserve No.4; Alex Peter of Malahat Indian Reserve No.11; appeared before the Commissioner this day.

Simon Pierre, of Katzie, was spokesman and interpreter for the party, the subject to be discussed being the treaties made between the Saanich Indians and the Hudson's Bay Company in 1851 whereby they relinquished all the lands in North and South Saanich Districts but retained there out their Reserves.

A statement was read by the interpreter for David Latesse, and marked Exhibit No.1.

A statement of the Chiefs and Councillors of the Saanich Tribes bearing out the statement made by David Latesse was also read. This was marked Exhibit No.2.

A statement of the Chiefs and Councillors as well as individual Indians further bearing out the statement of Chief David Latesse was presented, and marked Exhibit No.3.

All the above mentioned documents, which are attached hereto, went to show that the Indians of the present day had no knowledge of what transpired between their forefathers and the Hudson's Bay Company in the early days, except that they seemed to have some hazy idea that a few blankets were given by the Company in payment for certain timber taken off their lands.

I explained to the Indians that these treaties were made with the Hudson's Bay Company about 81 years ago and it was doubtful if any of the present generation had any knowledge of what had taken place so long ago. The Indians were informed that these treaties were held to be valid and the lands which the Hudson's Bay Company had obtained were retained by the Company for some years, after which the greater part of it was sold to the British Government in the year 1863, and that it would avail the Indians nothing to endeavor to upset the treaties above referred to. They, however, stated that it was not in their minds at all but upon their being asked just what was on their mind in this connection they wished to know that if the treaties were held to be good and at some later date the Government of Canada decided to pay treaty annuities to British Columbia Indians for the surrender of the Indian title as in other Provinces, whether the Indians of Saanich would be treated the same as other Indians of the Province. They were informed that some years ago Duncan C. Scott, the late Deputy Superintendent General, had told Messrs. Kelly and Paull, representing the Allied Tribes, that the fact of the

Saanich.....

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