

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

KINCOLITH.
NASS RIVER, B.C.

May, 31st, 1930.

W.E. Ditchburn Esq:
Indian Commissioner for B.C.
Victoria, B.C.

Re: - Your file #33/s/8/17684.

Sir, -

In compliance with instructions contained in your letter dated May, 13th, re the above, I proceeded to Gitlakdamix arriving there, after some unavoidable delay, on Tuesday, May, 27th:

I handed over your letter addressed to the Chief and Members of the Aiyansh Indian Council to Chief Councillor James Adams and a meeting which lasted the greater part of the day, was opened the following morning. This commenced with an ordinary meeting of the village council, then the Chiefs of the Tribe headed by Head Chief Alfred Livingstone Skadeen appeared and the meeting developed into a general assembly. I attended after giving the village council some little time to discuss the matter among themselves and it was very evident that the matter had been taken right out of the hands of the council, who were allowing themselves to be dominated by Chief Skadeen. The Chief Councillor - James Adams, is a young man, whom I had considered fairly well advanced, but at that meeting he revealed himself as little more than a savage.

I was informed that the Indian Commissioner's letter had been given consideration and that they still refused to accept the 19 five acres reserves and they also refused to give any assistance to the survey of the same. As is usual on these occasions, a number of irrelevant matters were enlarged upon and I had difficulty in holding them to the matter in hand. I asked if it was thoroughly understood that if these plots were not surveyed this summer they would lose all claim to them and this was greeted with general derision, it being asserted that the Royal Commission had promised that these reserves should be at least forty acres each and now, without "their consent" they had been cut to five.

After trying to convince them that it was not intended to restrict their hunting rights to the reserves but they were free to hunt wherever they wanted, on the same conditions as the whites, a little better if anything, I tried to explain to them about mineral rights but they persisted that these nineteen reserves consisted entirely of shale and were of no use whatever. Not having seen these reserves I was not in a position to tell them differently. As a matter of fact, I doubt if many in that assembly had seen them either.

During this time there was a series of fanatical outbursts from Chief Skadeen, whom it seems, would like to drive all the whites out of the country. After quietening him down, I suggested that the meeting should adjourn and after some cool thought, the matter could be discussed again as I did not want to rush them and was prepared to stay a week if necessary. James Adams immediately replied that there could never be any cool thought regarding this "question" and demanded to know why the Department would not help them in the matter. I said that the Department was giving them all possible help not only in this, but in all other matters as well. Adams denied this and claimed that by the introduction of "regulations and laws" efforts were being made to exterminate the Indians. They had been told that the Indian Reserves were their own lands but they knew now that the Government still held them and allowed people to come on to them and do what they liked, without paying the Indians any compensation and without any regard for their by-laws. Then when

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