

33/S/8/18375.

July 22, 1930.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 17th of July, instant, No. 27168-1, requesting further information in regard to the location of nineteen reserves proposed to be set aside in the headwaters of the Nass River for the Nass River Indians. In reply to your inquiry I wish to advise that on the 13th of May last I addressed a letter to Chief Councillor Adams of the Aiyansh band of Indians, and the same was delivered to the Aiyansh Councillor in person by Constable Newnham on Tuesday, May 27th. On May 29th Constable Newnham reported by telegram from Aiyansh stating that the Indians rejected these reserves and declined to assist the surveyors in locating them. The Constable's report in detail was later received at this office - dated May 31st - bearing out the information conveyed in his telegram of two days previous. A further letter was consequently addressed to the Chief Councillor on this subject on June 28th, in which it was pointed out that claims to the reserves would have to be abandoned unless I should hear from him to the contrary not later than one month from the date of this letter, namely, 28th July, instant. On July 14th I received a letter signed by Chief Councillor Adams pointing out that these reserves were not being rejected by the Indians but that the area comprised in them is their own property in any case, and that the proposed allotments of five acres each were too small. The claim made to the Royal Commission for a large territorial area was repeated in this letter - such territorial claim not having been entertained by the Commission.

On July 19th, instant, I addressed a lengthy letter to the Chief Councillor in an endeavour to reason further with him and his council with respect to the unwisdom of allowing the opportunity to have these parcels surveyed to pass. I requested the Indians not to fail to understand that the Provincial Government will not grant us these parcels after December 31st next, and pointed out that as the time will now be short unless prompt action is taken the immediate action of the Indians is desired in order that steps may be taken to have a surveyor sent up to the Nass River for the purpose of making the survey.

I am now awaiting a final reply from these Indians, and will advise the Department of any further developments in this connection.

Your obedient servant,

P/TH

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

C.C. Perry, Assistant Commissioner.
For W.E. Ditchburn, Indian Commissioner for B.C.

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