

Before the close of the current year I hope to be able to forward a complete statement of all crops harvested throughout the Territories, as well as a return showing the whereabouts of our Indians up to the latest date, which I trust will show nearly all on their respective reserves, and hope the same may reach you in time to be printed as part of my Report.

I enclose the usual tabular statement of the year ending 30th June last.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

E. DEWDNEY,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

460 K.

INDIAN OFFICE,  
VICTORIA, B.C., 31st October, 1883.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following Report upon Indian Affairs in the Province of British Columbia, for the year 1882-83.

Official visitations have been made to the north-west coast as far as Metlakahtla, and I have just returned to Victoria from an extensive tour throughout the interior, including the Cariboo District, the Chilcotin country, Okanagan, Spallumcheen, Nicola, &c.

With the exception of the tribes inhabiting the first named locality, where bitter and unfortunate religious dissensions still prevail among the Missionaries and their native followers; and some discontented tribes in the vicinity of Soda Creek, Alkali Lake, Canoe Creek, &c., on account of the poor quality and scarce acreage of the reserves recently set aside for the bands named in that part of the country, I am glad to be able to report favorably upon the general progress and loyal contentment manifested by the various nationalities in the Province.

The unhappy differences existing between the Bishop of Caledonia, representing the Church Mission Society of London, and Mr. Duncan, whose connection with the society had lately been severed, culminated in December last in riotous proceedings on the part of many Indian followers, which necessitated immediate interference by the proper authorities.

There being no available means of transport at the time in Victoria, I availed myself of the kind offer of Captain Stodder, of the United States Revenue Service, to place his ship at the disposal of the Government, and accompanied by A. C. Anderson, Esq., J. P., representing the Provincial Magistracy, and Mr. Tod, Superintendent of Police, proceeded to Metlakahtla on the 12th of January last.

I have already had the honor of reporting to you fully upon the origin of the Metlakahtla troubles, and will now only, very generally, refer to the immediate breaking of the peace, which caused at the time considerable excitement and anxiety for fear of more serious consequences.

With brief reference to the immediate cause of the trouble at that time, I may state that Mr. Duncan had an extensive trading store built upon the land set apart by the Government for mission purposes, and carried on by him for the last twenty years under the auspices of the society while acting as their Agent.

Sometime after leaving the society's employment, Mr. Duncan's sympathizers turned out *en masse*, and not only removed the large stock of goods, but tore down the buildings, and with the material re-erected another store a few yards from the old site, on ground set apart for general reserve purposes.

This spirit was carried still further by a determination to remove the school house in the same manner (on the plea that it was about to be used for church purposes) from the reserve, as the following notice posted in the village at that time will show.