GR 2982 Sproat reserves 1879

Indian Reserve Commission
British Columbia

In camp near New Westr
27 Jany 1879

Progress.

Sir

In further reporting progress generally I have the honour to state that since arriving in the district of the Lower Fraser from the Thompson, Nicola & Similkameen valleys, as mentioned in my general Report to the Department I have, notwithstanding the season of the year visited about 30 reserves between Yale and the mouth of the Fraser inhabited by about 4800 2000 Indians with all of whom I have had conversations and of whom I have taken a census.

I have also been up the coast to take up the work left 2 years ago south of Howe Sound among the Skaamons, Skehome and Homalko Indians who principally dwell in Mahaspina, Toba, Bute and Loughborough Inlets. From there I crossed the Gulf to Cape Mudge to have an interview with the Cowichans, but finding that many of these latter were absent at a great feast at Nanaimo, and that others were unwilling to move about in such weather, and as the steamer was driven ashore and broke her rudder, I could do no more in that direction. I am now at work at this place, and am examining proposals made by Mr Sheridan with respect to the New Westminster Indians, and am also continuing work in this district to get as much as possible done before spring.

I beg leave respectfully to mention that since last May I have negociated with about 4800 Indians, and [illegible] have made

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Indian Reserve Commission
(Care of Dr. Powell)
Victoria.
1879. 17 March

Sir

I have the honour to inform you, that, subject to several open questions which are known to you, the question of the Indians' lands has been examined and adjusted in the large extent of country south from Cache Creek and Lytton, and on both sides of the Gulf of Georgia up to and including Jervis Inlet and Comox.

Since taking the field, as single Commissioner, in the middle of May last, I have dealt with about 5000 Indians, and have thus

The Honourable
The Chief Commissioner
of Lands & Works
Victoria.

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unnecessary expenditure by the Dominion
Government which, as you are aware,
now pays the whole cost of the
establishment.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
Gilbert Malcolm Sproat
Commissioner

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largely advanced the work in hand.

I am authorised and required by the Dominion Government to carry on the work without Relaxation shaping my routes as circumstances dictate, so long as the principle of adjustment now established is maintained, and no change of policy is adopted towards the Indians.

I beg to ask if the Provincial Government desire that any particular portion of the still unexamined Country should be first examined.

My purpose is to adjust Indian land matters in the Douglas-Lillooet country, and then to work northward through the Lillooet district - either this, or to continue the work upon the coasts of

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I have the honour to request, that, in pursuance of the existing arrangement between the two governments, embodied in the Order in Council under which I, lately, have been acting, and of which a copy is annexed (for your convenient reference to it), you will cause me to be furnished with the requisite authority from the Provincial Government, so far as they are concerned, for prosecuting the adjustment of the Indian land question in the districts not yet examined.

Requesting your early attention to this matter, as there is a good deal to be arranged before starting out, and as the season is opening and delay will cause

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Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable The Executive Council approved by His Excellency The Lieut. Governor in Council on the 26th. April 1878.

On a memorandum from the Honourable The Chief Commr of Lands & Works dated the 23 April 1878, recommending that all Mr. Sproat's decisions Regarding the Indian land question in the electoral district of Yale be regarded as final excepting those of which he shall have received notice from either Mr Teague or Mr. Ussher. Govt agents, to lay over

The Committee advise that the recommendation be approved.

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