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Shammon Indian Reserve B.C.

17 January 1898

Frank Derlin Esq.

Indian Agent New Westminster B.C.

Dear Sir

We the undersigned Indians residing on our Reserve at Shammon respectfully request that you will explain our wishes to the Indian Dept. and assist us to carry out the following plan which we have in view. For obtaining Lumber, Shingles, Nails etc. to build a new Church on our Reserve at Shammon. As you are aware our old Church is unsafe and not fit to worship in the boards being rotten etc. We have plenty of logs on our Reserve and we wish permission to cut sufficient logs and exchange for lumber etc. to enable us to build a Church of the value of about \$3000. As we have neither Oxen nor horses we wish to engage a white man to haul the logs to the water. we doing all the work in connection with the logs. Excepting the hauling. We further wish to be supplied with provisions to be used by the men whilst engaged getting the logs ready. which we think will be ten or eleven weeks. We also wish to get tools which we need in getting the logs ready. We have neither Axes, Saws, Spades, Mattocks etc. Suitable for cutting logs or making roads etc. These articles and also the hauling of logs to the water to be paid for from the logs. After they are cut in witness whereof we have made our marks on the day and year above mentioned.

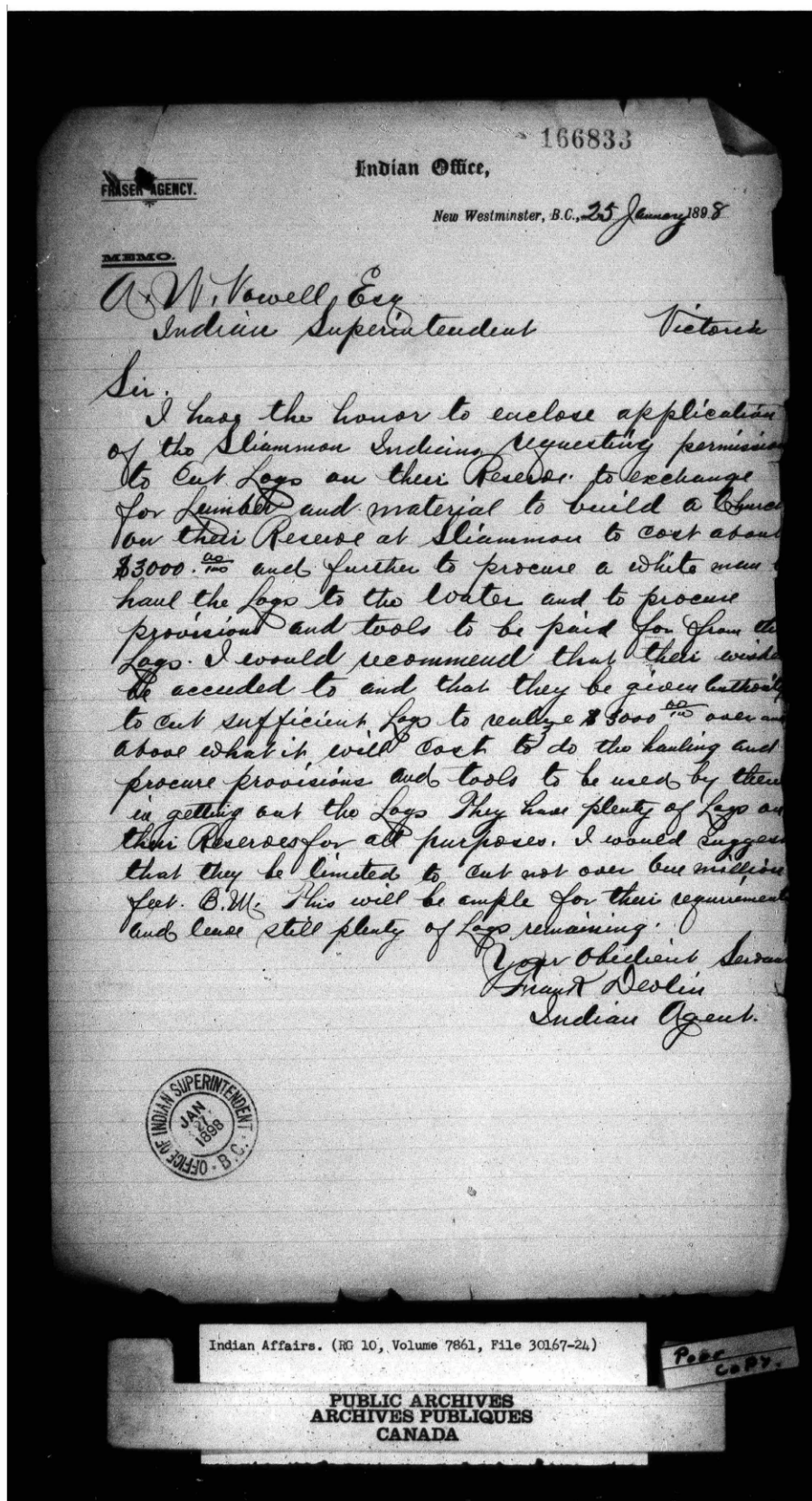
Charlie Chief his mark  
Timothy Captain his mark

Sampsonian Captain his mark  
William his mark

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7861, File 30167-24)

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Jan 17, 1898



Jan 25 1898

166-833

Ottawa 7th February, 1898-

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th Ultimo, enclosing Mr. Agent Devlin's letter, covering the application made by the Indians of Sliammon Band, for permission to cut and sell about a million of feet of saw logs to be taken from Sliammon Reserve No. I, with a view to realize \$3000.00, for the purpose of building a Church on their Reserve, and recommending the same for approval &c.

*Anan*  
In reply I have to inform you that until full information shall have been received, the Department will not be in a position to give the proposal such serious and proper consideration as it appears to demand.

*W. H. C.*  
The first requisite proceeding in such cases, is to obtain the consent of the Band, as expressed by resolution, at a full meeting called for this purpose, in accordance with the rules. The letter, signed by thirty Indians, who appear to be unable to write, addressed to Mr. Agent Devlin, is deemed insufficient, as it does not express the unanimous wish of the Band, nor of the majority thereof. The concurrence of the Provincial Government appears to be necessary, in the alienation of Timber for such a purpose.

The chief objection, however, to the proposal, is, the

A. W. Vowell, Esq.

Indian Superintendent,

Victoria, B.C.

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Feb 7 1898

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13 Feb 8

R. W. Towell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent

Victoria

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 14th Inst (P.C.) enclosing copy of letter from Department re lumber etc. required by Shannan Indians. I am sorry it is forwarding their requisition I did not make it clear that the consent of the Band was obtained at a meeting called for that purpose and held at Shannan on the 17th January at which I was present. Early in the month of December last Chief Choddy of Shannan met me in Vancouver and informed me that his people wished permission to cut logs on their Reserve for the purpose of procuring lumber etc. to build a Church. As their old Church was unfit for worship. I told the Chief that I would visit Shannan on 17th January as I wished to see all his people in this connection and requested him to notify all his men of the full age of 21 years to meet me there. I went to Shannan as arranged and met the Indians. There was thirty two Indians present and all of them were unanimous in their wish to get permission to cut the logs for the purpose mentioned there being not one dissentient voice. These 32 Indians comprised all of the Male Members of the Band who were at home on the Reserve on the date of my visit of Jan the others being away. Some hunting others visiting friends at Klahouse, others at Spinalto where they are during the winter others on Pache Island where they are employed by prospectors. In fact it is rarely that I could find 32 men at Shannan at one time.



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Feb 19, 1898

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time and I consider that the 33 men present fully represented the wishes of the whole Band. These Indians lead less or more of a roaming life with Blammon Reservoir. Not as their chief village nearly every Indian of the tribe having a house there and where they all congregate at intervals when the Priest goes to preach. All the Blammon Indians are Roman Catholics and the Church of St. Paul would be placed in charge of the Chief of the tribe and as at present with the old Church would be placed at the disposal of the Priest to officiate in on the occasion of his visit to them.

Blammon Reservoir is situated on the Beach on Malaspina Strait. There are no roads built through the Reservoir, excepting a short piece about 1/2 a mile which the Indians have just constructed to get into the timber, which they intend getting out. I understand they are still busy breaking roads to get the Logs out, and have done a good deal of work in this respect. They anticipate there would be no difficulty placed in their way.

There is at a rough estimate between 100,000 and 150,000 feet Board Measure of Logs on this Reservoir, chiefly Fir & Hemlock with a small quantity of Cedar. The Indians only propose to cut the Fir leaving any Hemlock & Cedar they may be for other use.

The value of the timber standing in trees is about \$7.75 per 1000 B.M.

The value of Logs on the Beach would be about \$4.75 per 1000 B.M. Barge to Vancouver (present Landing) would be about 75 cts per 1000 B.M.

He will here make a practice of cutting lumber

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Lumber at so much per 1000 so it is useless to give any  
 quotations.  
 The value of Rough Lumber (not saw) delivered on the  
 Beach at Blainmont would be about \$10.00 to \$11.00  
 per M. and of dressed Lumber about \$17.00 to \$19.00  
 There is not the least likelihood of the Reserve  
 resulting to the Provincial Government. during  
 the tenure of any person alive to-day as the  
 Blainmont. These are a healthy and sturdy  
 people. and unless an epidemic of some sort should  
 visit them there is no likelihood of them becoming  
 extinct. Even should such an occurrence take place  
 and the Reserve should revert to the Provincial Government  
 it would be no less valuable, as the Lumber taken from  
 the Reserve would still be there in the shape of a  
 building, and being a building would of course be  
 as good as part and parcel of the Reserve.  
 The provisions which the Indians request, and which  
 they wish to pay for from the proceeds of the logs  
 amounts to about \$170.00 and the logs to about \$75.00  
 Although the Indians have asked permission to cut and  
 dispose of logs to the value of \$5000.00 I feel sure from  
 my previous experience that they will get tired before  
 getting near that quantity, and if they get \$2000.00 worth  
 out they will do better than I expect and with  
 that amount well spent they can construct a  
 Church which will be quite suitable to their  
 wants. I don't consider it wise however to discourage them  
 by limiting them to \$2000.00 but I feel sure they will not ask  
 over that amount.

Yours obedient servant  
 J. B. Deslins  
 Indian Agent

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I66 833-

Ottawa 2nd March 1898-

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22nd Ultime, No. 78 C.3, enclosing the report of Mr. Agent Devlin on the application of the Indians to cut and sell about a million of feet of sawlogs to be taken from the Sliammon Reserve No. 1, for the purpose of building a Church on the Reserve.

In reply I have to inform you that after full consideration of the statements made, and in view of the fact that consent has been obtained, apparently in accordance with the rules of the Band, and considering that the Church, when built, shall remain the property of the Band, although it may be placed at the disposal of the officiating priest for services, and that it shall <sup>not</sup> pass under his control, or that of the Church he represents; but shall be held in trust by the Department for the Indians, you may authorize Mr. Agent Devlin to issue Permits to cut and sell sufficient Fir Timber to suffice for the erection of a Church, the cost of which should not exceed two thousand dollars, over and above the incidental expenses connected therewith.

The conditions stated in the foregoing, should be

A. W. Vowell, Esq.-

Indian Superintendent,

Victoria,

B. C.

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Mar 2, 1898