

British Columbia 17,612 13615
Indian Reserve Commission

In Camp Sal
24 Nov. 1887



File with Mr. Sprunt's land report of progress
{ Summary of year work }
Sir

I may at this time summarise what the Commission has been doing during the year, to save you the trouble of referring to numerous separate letters.

The first work during the year was in Malaspina Strait among the Coast Indians known as the Shiammons who sent me urgent messages relative to the sale of land close to their principal village. I prosecuted work among these Indians until the steamboat "Leonora" which was my chief

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Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs
Vancouver, Canada

conveyance, was driven on shore, and so damaged as to be unable to proceed further, which indeed would not have been much longer possible in that part of the country, owing to the snowfall.

I returned to the Fraser River, and undertook such of the long promised work as was possible at that season among the Lower Fraser Indians who had been passed over for two years by the Commission owing to the pressing nature of the land question in the interior.

After an interval in the early spring occupied in office work connected with Commission and Survey records and maps required for the two

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 in April 17.612
 governments, I started to carry on and
 complete the adjustment of land questions
 between Yale and the mouth of the
 Fraser, connecting the work above
 Yale with the lowest village of
 the Nekkla-Kap-a-mulls at
 Spuzzum, which people had been
 dealt with during the previous season.

The Lower Fraser Indians inhabit
 what is known as the New Westminster
 District, a comparatively populous and
 very important district. There are
 many tribes, and I anticipated and
 indeed experienced great difficulty in
 finding means of adjusting Indian
 land questions in several localities.
 Some of the reserves were unsuitable,
 and the good land near there had
 naturally been taken up by settlers.
 The season was wet and the
 mosquitoes worse than they had been

for many years, so that the work was of the most severe description. It was necessary, however, to carry it through, as great inconvenience to both Indians and whites was caused by the long delay in examining the district. I exhausted every effort to provide reasonably for the Indians, without unnecessarily disturbing white settlers, even though they had merely squatted since the railway route was put on. I think I may say that the intelligent settlers appreciate the difficulties which work in this district presented.

In two or three places the mosquitoes fairly drove the Indians and ourselves away, and in other places the water was so

high as to cover the land which the Indians wished me to look at. With these unimportant exceptions, however, and a place not yet visited close to the American boundary, the whole Indian question in the New Westminster District has been examined, and the work as above said, connected above Gale with what was done during the previous season. This enables it to be said that the Indian land question has now been examined and as far as might be, adjusted along the whole proposed railway line from the Salt water to 50 miles up the North Thompson from Kamloops.

Having to resume work on the coast after finishing the New

Westminster district I made the necessary preparations: adopting the means of transport afforded by a schooner, and mainly, canoes, in preference to the former means, namely, a steamboat. I find that I do not lose time by not having a steamboat such as the "Leonora" (formerly employed by the Commission) as her supplies of fresh water and wood needed constant replenishing, and she could not face such weather as the schooner can make progress in.

A larger steamboat would double the cost of transport now being incurred, so that the present plan appears to be most suitable, though canoe travelling and camping in wet,

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 stormy weather involves discomfort. ^{17/12} The
 work can be carried on outside as long
 as there is little or no snow on the
 ground.

Between the time of leaving
 the New Westminster District and
 resuming work in the Malaspina
 Strait district on the coast above
 mentioned, namely in July, I
 attended the interesting meeting
 of the NeKla-Kap-a-muk
 Indians at Lytton, having first
 invited the Chief Commissioner of
 Land & Works to accompany me.
 The Indians much wished white
 settlers and particularly white "chiefs"
 to be present at their meeting, so
 that they might see how the
 Indians could do business.

On resuming work in

Malaspina street on the coast. I found the Klahoose and Homalthe tribes waiting for me with the Shiammon tribe, and all very anxious with respect to their land adjustment.

The particulars, so far, of my work among these Indians are described in my letter of the 11th Oct., and in another letter dated the 11th of this month. I have given an account of the later progress of the Commission among the Kwah Kewlth people therein also described. I am working amongst these people at the present time. The labours of the Commission are much needed on this portion of the coast, and progress will be duly advised.

The two surveyors Mr. E. Mohun and Captain Lemmett, employed in surveying Indian reserves in this province under my immediate direction, have been working throughout the season in the extensive and important valley of Nicola. Capt Lemmett has surveyed also the reserves for the Nicomen Indians on Thompson River. Every effort has been used to reduce expenditure in connection with these surveys.

In conclusion I have the pleasure to inform you that as a result of arrangements which I think, judging from experience, will be feasible, I hope to be able to advise the possibility, in the spring, of considerably reducing the cost of

the Reserve Commission, so long as it is working on the coast - thus continuing the efforts in the direction of economy, which in conformity with your instructions, have engaged my attention as regards the work of the Commission and the surveys, since these came under my personal management.

It is not necessary in this summary, to advert to the several very grave subjects on which, as they came before me, I have from time to time made observations for the information of the Department.

I am Sir
Your devoted servant
Silvest Madsen - Great
Ormsby

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I described particularly in
my letter from Howe Sound
in Nov or Dec^r 1876.

Next to the northward
are the Se-shells of Lewis
Islet, who by the unpretentious
work among them of the
Roman Catholic Church have
been made moral and industrious.

Farther north still along
the mainland coast are the
above mentioned Klahoos,
Shiammon and Homalthko
Indians who, also, have
been greatly improved by the
labours of the Catholic priests.

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16,665

This work of the Catholic Church among the Se-shells and the Klahoose, Sliammon and Homalthe Indians is worthy of attention owing to its unpretending character and its manifest success.

The people who, owing to the nature of the country, have to find their living by hunting & fishing over a large extent of the coast, are so scattered in summer that it would be difficult for the priest to visit all of them. But they come together at their winter quarters where they have a village of good houses and a)

British Columbia 11660
Indian Reserve Commission -
In Camp near Cape Mudge
1879. 11th October.

Sir,

Report of Progress

I have been working among
the Klahoose, Shiammon and
Homalthko Indians, and am
now at this camp, beside
the village of one branch of the
"Euclataw" or more properly Laich-
Kwil-tach" Indians.

Coming along the coast of
the mainland from Burrard's Inlet,
the first Indian people are the
Skwawmish of Howe Sound, whom

The Honorable

The Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs. Ottawa

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 3699, File 16,665)

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