

OFFICE OF
THE INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES,
SOUTHWESTERN INSPECTORATE,

Victoria, B.C., Sept.30, 1913

No.329/C

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that on the 25th instant I received the following telegram from the Hon. W.J. Roche, Minister of the Interior:-

Ottawa, Ont., Sept.24, 1913.

“W.E. Ditchburn,

Inspector of Indian Agencies, Victoria.

You are hereby authorized to take surrender of Squamish Indian Reserves at Newport, Howe Sound, under provisions of Indian Act. When you forward surrender make full report on terms of agreement, conditions of Indians, and all circumstances bearing on surrender. Terms and conditions will be given consideration. The taking of surrender does not imply favourable view by government.

W.J. Roche.”

In accordance with these instructions I left Victoria on the 26th instant, and on the 27th held a duly summoned meeting of the Squamish Indians interested in the following reserves set aside for this tribe: - Yekwaupsum No.18; Mamquam island No.20; Squamish Island No.21; Skwulwailem No.22; Ahtsann No.25 and Stawamus No.24.

As the reserves above mentioned were controlled by two separate sub-chiefs and the terms of agreement were different it was necessary to take two surrenders, one being for the Yekwaupsum, and the other surrender for Mamquam Island, Squamish Island, Skwulwailem, Ahtsann and Stawamus, the first mentioned being under the control of Sub-chief Edward Williams and the other five controlled by Sub-chief Joseph.

The surrenders were taken according to the provisions laid down in Section 49 of the Indian Act and practically the full voting strength of those Indians interviewed in the above mentioned reserves all voted in favor of the surrender and affixed their signature thereto, the only members not voting being those who were sick and unable to be present, but who had already affixed their signature to the agreement.

The total voting strength for the Yekwaupsum surrender is seven (7) and they were all present and voted in the affirmative. In the case of the surrender for the Mamquam Island, Squamish Island, Skwulwailem, Ahtsann and Stawamus the voting strength is thirty-eight. Thirty of these were present and all voted in the affirmative, the balance, as before mentioned, being sick and unable to be present. I also had Chief Harry, the Government head chief of the whole Squamish tribe, affix his signature to both surrenders.

The surrenders were necessary to confirm agreements made between the members of the Squamish tribe interested in the above mentioned reserves and the Pacific Great Eastern Development Company, Limited, as the result of negotiations which have been going on during the past two months between Mr. D'Arcy Tate, Vice-President of the before mentioned Company and the Indians with the full knowledge of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs and Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia.

The declarations were sworn to by Mr. J.W. Campion, Justice of the Peace, at North Vancouver shortly after the surrenders were taken.

As the terms of the agreement between the Company and the Indians are not fully in each case it will not be necessary for me to go into the matter in detail. I may, however, say that I have no hesitation in stating that the Indians have made a very good bargain with the Company for the disposal of these reserves. A great portion of the lands in question are of no practical value to the Indians in their present condition and could only be made so at the expenditure of a vast amount of capital in the work of reclamation, and such a huge undertaking of this character would be quite impossible for the Indians.

When the Company have completed the great amount of work necessary to bring these lands up to any commercial value and the townsite of Newport becomes inhabited and the Pacific Great Eastern terminals are established, the lands which the Indians have retained as Indian Reserves under their agreement, being forty acres of the Stawamus and four acres of the Yekwaupsum reserve, as well as the

balance of the Squamish reserves further up the valley will be very considerably enhanced in value. They will then be in a position in the future, should it become necessary to dispose of any more of these reserves, to demand a much higher price than they are asking at present.

I have made a personal inspection of the reserves under consideration and find that the Yekwaupsum reserve, containing 154 acres is land of a good character and has considerable spruce, cotton-wood and cedar growing, the balance being covered with small alder trees. After the timber has been taken off it will then cost from \$50 to \$100 an acre to clear it.

Mamquam Island No.20, of 13 acres, is a small island in the eastern branch of the Squamish River, and the land is of fair character but will have to be cleared.

Squamish Island No.21, containing 416.50 acres, adjoins the present townsite of Newport and is very low-lying land and with several sloughs running through it, and will have to be dyked before it can be put to any commercial purposes. This reserve also contains considerable fir, cedar, cotton-wood and spruce, balance being alder bottom with several small wild grass meadows.

Skwulwailem No.22 contains 188.25 acres and is partly sub-merged at high-tide and during the June and December tides is totally sub-merged. It is what is commonly known as tide-lands. There is very little spruce timber on this reserve but numerous small patches of wild grass meadows. These, of course, are only accessible for pasture at periods of extreme low water.

The Ahtsann Reserve No.23 contains 229.20 acres and fully three-fifths of this reserve is on the mountain-side on which there is spruce, cedar, cotton timber and also some fir. The latter being of no value as it has, in earlier days, been burnt over. The remaining two-fifths of this reserve are of the same quality as Skwulwailem, being subject to overflow during the greater part of the year.

The Stawamus reserve No.24 contains 140.50 acres. Upon this reserve the Indians will still retain forty acres as a reserve, and have most certainly selected the choice piece of ground contained within this area. The 101 acres of this reserve proposed to be purchased by the Company under the agreement, consists of rocky, hilly and swampy land and could only be improved at a very heavy expenditure. There is also a considerable amount of spruce, fir, hemlock and cedar timber.

The Company have had the timber cruised upon all the reserves and I have seen the Cruiser's report, which goes to show that the total amount of timber on the six reserves amounts to 4,7000,000 feet for which they are paying the Indians \$1.50 per thousand, making the total of \$7,080.00 less 350,000 feet lying on the mountain side which is of no value amounting to \$525.00 thus bringing the total for the timber fully down to \$6,525.00. The whole of this \$6,525.00 is being paid to the Indians as per schedule. In fact they are paying slightly over this amount.

After the timber has been taken off all these reserves it will cost from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per acre to clear the land for habitable purposes.

The total amount of land contained in the six reserves before mentioned and included in the agreement is as follows:-

No.	18 – Yekwaupsum	154.00	Acres.
“	20 – Mamquam Island	13.00	“
“	21 – Squamish Island	416.50	“
“	22 – Skwulwailem	188.23	“
“	23 – Ahtsann	229.20	“
“	24 – Stawamus	141.50	“
		<u>1,142.43</u>	<u>Acres</u>
	Less four acres in Yekwaupsum and forty acres in Stawamus reserve which remains as Indian Reserves.	44.00	“
		<u>1,142.43</u>	<u>Acres</u>

The total amount of cash the Indians are to receive under the agreement is:-

Yekwaupsum Reserve	\$31,323.00
Mamquam, Squamish Island)	
Skwulwailem, Ahtsann and)	130.096.00
Stawamus Reserves.....)	
	<u>\$161,419.00</u>

As well as fifty dwelling houses at \$250.00 each...	12,500.00
	<u>\$175,919.00</u>

Also six town lots 50X120 feet, the value of which is yet undetermined.

In the matter of the condition of the Indians mentioned in the schedule who are to receive the amounts set opposite their names, I am of the opinion that they have reached a state of civilization whereby they could be very well entrusted to handle the amount of money they are individually to receive under the agreement. They are practically all working men being employed at general work, and have a very good knowledge of the value and use of money.

I appreciate the fact that it will require a special Act of Parliament to enable this agreement, whereby the Indians are to receive the full purchase money of the reserves, to go through, but I am of the opinion this can be very well done, as was done in the case of the Songhees reserve settlement.

With respect to the Songhees settlement I may state for your information that while a very small per centage of the Indians of this tribe did not make the best use of the large amount of money that they received from the Provincial Government in 1911, the bulk of the band have done so and, they are in much better condition today, financially, than they were at the time they received the money. That is to say, a good many of them, from my own knowledge, have not only husbanded their funds but also have made very wise and profitable investments of their funds.

In conclusion I may say that I am given to understand that the question of the Provincial Government's revisionary interest will not affect this settlement, Hon. W.J. Bowser, Attorney General for British Columbia, having written to the royal Commission on Indian Affairs disclaiming any interest in the reserves under consideration.

I herewith enclose surrender, declaration and agreement in duplicate,

Your obedient servant,
W.E. Ditchburn
Inspector of Indian Agencies

Enclosure:-

Frank Pedley, Esq.,
Deputy Superintendent General,
Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa.