

52, B.N.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 10th. instant enclosing copies of letters from the Deputy Superintendent General and from Mr. Joseph Levesque of Fisheries with regard to the granting of licenses to fish on the Fraser River to Indians of this Agency, I beg to state that for generations past these Indians have been in the habit of following the runs of salmon on the Fraser River, and the opening of canneries, (on payment of the license fee) licenses were at once granted them which were continued from year to year until lately when they were told that none but Fraser River Indians could obtain a license.

Many of these Indians have seines
and

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and boats, in several cases valued at three to four hundred dollars, which I contend does not tend to the advancement of the Indians.

With regard to the remark of Mr. Inspector McNab that they supply local markets I beg respectfully to state that the old men who troll for salmon, and peddle from house to house are not the men who apply for, and are willing to pay whatever license fee may be required to fish on the Fraser and that these young Indians are a better class of citizens than many to whom licenses are granted. I would therefore still urge upon the Government the advisability of encouraging them, and at any rate giving them a chance of obtaining a license.

Trusting that you will support my views on the subject.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Obedt. Servant,

(Signed) W. H. Lomas

Indian Agent.