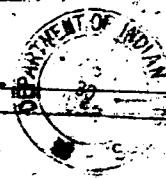


Copy.

New Westminster 21st April 1892.



Str.-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of correspondence of 18th April, Re. granting of licenses to fish in the Fraser River to Indians of the Comtchean Agency.

In my opinion the granting of a license to every bona-fide fisherman, who is an actual resident of the Province and a British subject, Indians included, and also will pay \$10. fee, is the only way in which the question relative licenses can be equitably settled.

But should it be decided by the Department that a limited number of licenses, only, are to be issued for the Fraser River, then in my opinion the Indians of the Comtchean or any other Agency who are non-residents on the Fraser would have no claim to such licenses, which should be confined to those for whom the Indians from every Agency in the Province would press for the same. In my opinion the Indians should be dispossessed of their fishing grounds, and the Government, through the Fisheries Department, should make arrangements on the subject of the fishing rights of the Province, and the Indians, and the advantages over white settlers. To be continually travelling from place to place is agreeable to them, but has a demoralizing tendency, and their competition under such circumstances would be unjust to the fishermen, and I beg to repeat that the Comtchean Indians are favourably situated for fishing all the year round, and that they can find a market for their catch in the cities and settlements on the island, whereas the Fraser River Indians have never been salt-water fishermen, but have always depended upon the fish in the Fraser river for their food. In order also that freezing establishments and other fish curing industries may be systematically and successfully conducted, a steady resident supply of salmon is necessary. To encourage the migration of bodies of Indians from place to place as we impel seizures upon them would not, I submit, be conducive with the benefit on to that of the residents of the district with whom for a few weeks they would enter into competition.

I am &c.

(Sd. John Mc.Nab

S. P. Maset Esq.

Acting Deputy Minister of Fisheries  
OTTAWA.

Str. -

I beg to acknowledge receipt of correspondence of 14th April, 1884, granting of licenses to fish in the Fraser River to Indians of the Comtchean Agency.

In my opinion the granting of a license to every bona-fide fisherman, who is an actual resident of the Province and a British subject, Indian included and also will pay \$20. fee, is the only way in which the question respecting licenses can be satisfactorily settled.

But the Department has decided by the Department that a limited number of licenses only, are to be issued for the Fraser River. Then in my opinion the Indians of the Comtchean or any other Agency who are bona-fide residents on the Fraser would have no claim to more licenses, which should be confined to bona-fide residents of the Province every year. It is also to be considered that the Indians of the Comtchean Agency are now being disposed of to the various Reserves and are being settled in various locations on the coast of the Province, and they are being put at a disadvantage over white settlers. To be continually travelling from place to place is agreeable to them, but has a demoralizing tendency, and their competition under such circumstances would be unjust to white fishermen, and I beg to repeat that the Comtchean Indians are favourably situated for fishing all the year round, and that they can find a market for their catch in the cities and settlements of the Island, whereas the Fraser River Indians have never been salt-water fishermen, but have always depended upon the fish in the Fraser river for their food. In order also that freezing establishments and other fish curing industries may be systematically and successfully conducted, a steady resident supply of salmon is necessary. To encourage the migration of bodies of Indians from place to place as the impulse seizes upon them would not, I submit, be conducive either to their own benefit or to that of the residents of the district with whom for a few weeks they would enter into competition.

I am, &c.