

Final Report - Bella Coola Agency



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BELLA COOLA AGENCY

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BELLA COOLA AGENCY

DETAILED REPORT

BELLA COOLA AGENCY

The principal Reserves of the Bella Coola Agency were visited by the Commission and meetings with the Indians held during the period of August 16th to September 5th, 1913, Mr. Agent Fougner being subsequently examined at considerable length and on several occasions as to the Reserves of the Agency, conditions obtaining thereon, and land requirements of the Indians.

It is to be noted in connection with the Bella Coola Agency, the Indian population of which is 1,511, that the characteristics of the Indians and their occupations of maintenance are widely dissimilar in different sections, the natives of the coastal territory being fishermen almost exclusively and their land requirements fishing stations of small area, village sites and reservations requisite for wood supply; while the Agency population of the Interior, now that hunting and trapping are no longer to be depended upon for livelihood, are farmers and stockmen who have made a promising beginning in their new fields of activity.

The distinctive and contrasting requirements of the Coast and Interior Indians of the Agency explain the character of the new Reserves constituted and established, these numbering 46 in all, with an aggregate area of 7,050.60 acres.

The Ulkatcho Indians having made representations to the Government that their Reserve of 4,385.00 acres allotted by Mr. Commissioner Vowell in 1901 contained barren land from which it is impossible to make a livelihood, and having asked for new allotments in place thereof, the Commission carefully investigated, and, finding the Indian position sustained, cut off the major portion of this large Reserve, *i. e.*, 4,065.00 acres, creating other Reserves in place thereof which it is hoped and believed will be of more substantial use to the Indians.

The total area of the 65 Bella Coola Agency Reserves described in the Official Schedule of 1913, is 22,667.93 acres, or a per capita acreage for the Agency of fifteen. As a result of the Commission's work and decisions, 64 of the established Reserves have been confirmed, their areas aggregating 18,592.93 acres. Reduction of the area of Ulkatcho Reserve and non-confirmation of Kitisa Reserve of the Kitimat Tribe, the area of which was found to have been Crown Granted at the time of its tentative allotment, lessened the total Agency area by 4,075.00 acres. There are contained in the 46 new Reserves established by the Commission 7,050.60 acres, making a net area increase for the Agency of 2,975.60 acres, and giving a new total Reserves area of 25,643.53 acres. or 16.99 acres per capita.

BELLA COOLA AGENCY

IVER FOUNGER, AGENT
A. M. TYSON, INSPECTOR

ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE—TABLE A—REFERENCE AND GENERAL

TRIBE OR BAND	RESERVE	NO.	OCCUPIED OR UNOCCUPIED	PAGE SCHEDULE	VISITATION AND INSPECTION	ACREAGE	PER CAP. ACREAGE	GENERAL CONDITION	COMMUNITY BUILDINGS	FACILITIES OF ACCESS	VALUE	SPECIAL
Bella Bella	Bella Bella	1	Occupied	56	Aug. 25, 1913	1605	10 *	Main village site with planked street, several stores, etc.	Church, school, public hall, hospital, three stores, saw mill, missionary's house.	Reserve situated on Campbell Island, on regular steamer route.	\$5 per acre—\$8,125.00	*Per capita acreage for the Bella Bella, Kokyet and Lakelse Tribes.
Do	Burial Ground	2a		56	Do	27	Do	Heavily wooded graveyard site.		Water—steamboat or launch.	\$1 per acre—\$7.00	
Do	Hooness	2	*Unoccupied	56	Do	21	Do	Fishing station with good harbor for small craft.	None	Water—steamboat or launch.	\$5 per acre—\$105.00	*Except for a brief period in the fishing season.
Do	Quartcha	3	* Do	56	Do	30	Do	Fishing station with inferior timber.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$150.00	* As above.
Do	Noota	4	* Do	56	Do	16½	Do	Fishing station and hunting camp.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$82.50	* Do
Do	Classe	5	* Do	56	Do	220	Do	Fishing and hunting station with good harbor.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$1,100.00	* Do
Do	Eicho	6	* Do	56	Do	86	Do	Fishing and hunting station.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$428.00	* Do
Do	Kisameet	7	* Do	56	Do	13	Do	Wooded fishing station.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$65.00	* Do
Do	Howest		*Occupied	56	Do	650	Do	Do	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$3,250.00	*Agent classifies as having "no permanent inhabitants."
Do	Kansoot	9	Intermittently	56	Do	95	Do	Heavily wooded fishing station with some cultivable land.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$475.00	
Do	Kajustus	10	Do	56	Do	163½	Do	Wooded fishing station and hunting camp.	None	As above.	\$5 per acre—\$817.50	
Do	Werkinelok	11	Do	56	Do	53	Do	Wooded halibut fishing station, ducks and geese abundant.	None	As above.	\$1 per acre—\$53.00	
Do	Yellertee	12	Do	56	Do	161½	Do	Do	None	As above.	\$2 per acre—\$323.50	
Kokyet *	Kokyet	1	*Occupied	58	Do	185	Do	Old village site and trapping base.	None	Do	\$5 per acre—\$925.00	*The Kokyet people only use this reserve during the fishing season. They make their permanent home at Bella Bella and are now counted as forming part of the Bella Bella band.
Do	Grief Island	2	Abandoned Graveyard	58	Do	25	Do	Rocky and heavily wooded, formerly used for graveyard.	None	Do	\$1 per acre—\$25.00	
Do	Kyertl	3	*Occupied	58	Do	1¼	Do	Wooded, with a few arable patches.	None		\$2 per acre—\$2.25	*Only when Indians come to plant or dig a few potatoes.

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ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE—TABLE C—POPULATION, SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.

RESERVE	No.	POPULATION	HEADS OF FAMILIES	YOUTHS OVER 18	WIDOWS	ORPHANS	CHIEF OCCUPATIONS	CONDITION OF INDIANS	FACILITIES OF EDUCATION	VIEWS OF INDIANS RE EDUCATION	REMARKS
Bella Bella	1	Inds. 305 Agt. 309 Agmt. afterwards amends to 305—for the Tribe	85 Including all males over 18	Rated as family heads	2		Hand-logging, boat-building, fishing, hunting and trapping, three store- keepers, tending lighthouse, oper- ating saw-mill intermittently.	Prosperous and fairly content	School on reserve	Prefer to have all children attend on home reserve.	
Burial Ground	1a										
Hooness	2						Fishing		None	None expressed	
Quartcha	3						Do		Do	Do	
Noota	4						Do		Do	Do	
Clatse	5						Fishing and trapping for mink		Do	Do	
Elcho	6						Fishing, hunting and trapping		Do	Do	
Kisameet	7						Do		Do	Do	
Howcet	8		4				Do		Do	Do	
Kunsoot	9						Fishing salmon		Do	Do	
Kajustus	10						Fishing and hunting		Do	Do	
Werkinellek	11						Do		Do	Do	
Yellertee	12						Do		Do	Do	
Kokyot	1						(See Bella Bella, No. 1)		(See Bella Bella, No. 1)		
Grief Island	2						Do		Do		
Kyarti	3						Do		Do		
Neekae	4						Do		Do		
Tankenh	5						Do		Do		
Koqui	6						Do		Do		

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BELLA COOLA AGENCY—ADDITIONAL LANDS APPLICATIONS

TRIBE OR BAND	LAND APPLIED FOR	PURPOSE	REFERENCE #	PER CAP. ACREAGE OF APPLICANT INDIANS	STATUS OF LAND DESIRED	DECISION OF COMMISSION
73. Owekano	All territory from Quay to Owekano Lake, on Smith's Inlet.	Fishing station and general	Evidence Pp. 1, 3, 7, 201.	16.5	Not available.	Not entertained, land applied for not being available.
73. Do	Cultivated land at Kitla, Rivers Inlet	Gardens	Evidence Pp. 1, 3, 7, 202.	16.5	Not ascertainable as Indians could not locate same.	Not entertained, as applicant Indians could not locate the land applied for.
74. Bella Bella	Land at Canumpt, allegedly improperly secured as a pre-emption by one Strom.	Gardens	Material on File 38757, Department of Indian Affairs and on R. C. File 504C.	16.0	Covered by P. R. in good standing; not available.	Not entertained, land applied for not being available.
75. Do	Land at Yeo Island, Bullock Channel, applied for by Indian Charles Windsor.	Fishing station	Material on File 40769, Department of Indian Affairs and R. C. File 504C, also File 29308, Department of Lands, B.C.	16.0	Contained in Lot 134, R. 3, Coast L. D., under lease to Swanson Bay Wood Pulp and Lumber Mills, Limited.	Allowed: Ten (10) acres, more or less, at the mouth of Quashistee or Salmon River, subject to selection and survey and to the expiration of pulp lease covering same or to the consent of the lessees being obtained prior to the expiry of the said lease.
76. Do	(a) Pole Island, approximately two (2) miles N. E. of Bella Bella and containing an area of two (2) acres, more or less; and (b) a small unnamed island approximately one (1) mile E. of Bella Bella, in front of the east Bella Bella Cannery, containing approximately one (1) acre, this application being made by Ashdown H. Green, B.C.L.S., accompanied by sketch plan.	Fishing station and graveyards	Material on R. C. File 504C, and File 123408, Department of Lands, B.C.	16.0	Apparently vacant, specified, 25/5/1915; noted, 27/5/1915.	Allowed: Pole Island, containing two (2) acres, more or less; also small unnamed island containing one (1) acre, more or less, as per description contained in application and shown upon sketch plan of Ashdown H. Green, B.C.L.S., numbered in accordance herewith and filed in duplicate with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.
77. Kitkatha or Kitkatha	Land contiguous to Teimisaen I. R. No. 15, applied for by Chief Sebasa.	Fishing station and hunting base	Material on File 123408, Department of Lands, B.C., and R. C. File 504C.	23.50	Vacant and available; noted 11/5/1916.	Allowed: Twenty (20) acres, more or less, subject to survey, in two (2) parcels of equal size, as per sketch plan of Ashdown H. Green, B.C.L.S., numbered in accordance herewith and filed in duplicate with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.
78. Kitkatha (Hartley Bay)	Gill Island, in its entirety.	Timber supply	Material on R. C. File 504C; Evidence P. 203.	8.75	Lots 2060 and 2061, covered respectively by H. L. L's 2086 and 2089.	Not entertained.
79. Do	Sundry creeks marked "X" on map transmitted for the applicant Indians by Rev. J. H. Matthews.	Fishing stations	Material on R. C. File 504C; Evidence P. 203.	8.75		Not entertained: Territorial.
80. Do	Hunting territory as indicated on map transmitted for the applicant Indians by Rev. J. H. Matthews.	Hunting Territory	Material on R. C. File 504C; Evidence P. 203.	8.75		Not entertained: Territorial.
81. Do	One hundred and sixty (160) acres, more or less, on Devastation Channel: Between T. L. No. 3503 and T. L. No. 3089, twenty (20) chains from the beach; thence eighty (80) chains; thence twenty (20) chains, more or less, to the beach, and thence following the meanderings of the shoreline to the place of commencement. (Application filed by George Robinson, J.P.; location marked "I" on Blueprint).	Timber supply	Material on R. C. File 504C; Evidence P. 203; File 123408, Department of Lands, B.C.	8.75	Covered by surveyed perpetual T. L.'s Nos. 9342 and 9343, in good standing. (See letter of Deputy Minister of Lands, B.C., 25/5/1916, on R. C. File 504C).	Not entertained, land applied for not being available.
82. Do	One hundred and sixty (160) acres, more or less, on Devastation Channel: Between T. L. No. 3503 and T. L. No. 3089, "from the last twenty (20) chains running from the salt water; thence eighty (80) chains; thence twenty (20) chains to tidewater, and thence following the meanderings of the shoreline to the place of commencement." (Application filed by George Robinson, J.P.; location marked "I" on Blueprint).	Do	Do	8.75	Covered by surveyed perpetual T. L.'s Nos. 9342 and 9343, in good standing. (See letter of Deputy Minister of Lands, B.C., 25/5/1916, on R. C. File 504C).	Not entertained, land applied for not being available.
83. Do	(a) Enlargement of Quail I. R. No. 3, or alternatively (b) allowance of the tidesats at the mouth of Quail River, to give in either case a total reserve acreage of one hundred and sixty (160) more or less. (Application filed by George Robinson, J.P.; location marked "2" on Blueprint).	Agricultural and fishing station	Material on R. C. File 504C; Evidence P. 203; File 123408, Department of Lands, B.C.	8.75	Vacant and available: On S. side of river. (See letter of Deputy Minister of Lands, B.C., 24/5/1915, on R. C. File 504C).	Allowed: Enlargement of Reserve, by addition of one hundred and sixty (60) acres, more or less, subject to survey as per sketch plan of Ashdown H. Green, B.C.L.S., numbered in accordance herewith and filed in duplicate with the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.

*Pages of reference are those of the typewritten transcript of evidence for the Agency accompanying the Report.

CONFIRMATIONS OF RESERVES BELLA COOLA AGENCY

TRIBE OR BAND	RESERVE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	DATE OF CONFIRMATION
Bella Bella	Bella Bella	1	Coast District, on Campbell Island, in McLaughlin Bay.	1,625.00	September 26th, 1913
Do	Burial Ground	1A	Coast District, on Denny Island, on Eastern shore of Plumper Channel, opposite Reserve No. 1.	17.00	Do
Do	Hoonoes	2	Coast District, on the Western shore of Roscoe Inlet, near its mouth.	21.00	Do
Do	Quartcha	3	Coast District, at the mouth of Quartcha River, Roscoe Inlet.	32.00	Do
Do	Noota	4	Coast District, at the mouth of Noota River, near the head of Roscoe Inlet.	16.50	Do
Do	Clatse	5	Coast District, at the mouth of Clatse River, Roscoe Inlet.	222.00	Do
Do	Elcho	6	Coast District, on the left bank of Elcho River, Dean Canal.	80.00	Do
Do	Kisameet	7	Coast District, on King Island, Fisher Channel, at the mouth of Kisameet River.	13.00	Do
Do	Howeet	8	Coast District, at the mouth of Howeet River, Lama Passage, Hunter Island.	610.00	Do
Do	Kunsoot	9	Coast District, at the mouth of Kunsoot River, Gunboat Passage, Denny Island.	95.00	Do
Do	Kajustus	10	Coast District, on Northern shore of Denny Island, Gunboat Passage.	16.50	Do
Do	Werkimeliek	11	Coast District, Goose Islands, about 25 miles Southwest of Bella Bella.	63.00	Do
Do	Yelertice	12	Coast District, on the Goose Islands, about 1/4 mile North-east of Reserve No. 11.	161.50	Do
Bella Coola	Bella Coola	1	Coast District, at the head of North Bentinck Arm, Burke's Channel.	2353.00 <small>—Reducible by the allowance of right-of-way of the Pacific and Hudson's Bay Railway Co. as per Interim Report No. 22, dated 4th May, 1914.</small>	Do
Do	Nookecock	2	Coast District, at the mouth of Nookecock River, 1 mile North of Loizence Point, North Bentinck Arm.	13.00	Do
Do	Talcomy	3	Coast District, on the Talcomy River, near the head of South Bentinck Arm.	500.00	Do
Do	Kwawleas	4	Coast District, on the Kwawleas River, about 6 miles East of Bentinck Arm.	131.00	Do
Kernsquit	Kernsquit	1	Coast District, at the mouth of the Kernsquit River, Dean Canal.	502.00	Do
Do	Chutseah	2	Coast District, on the Chutseah River, at the head of Dean Canal.	428.00	Do
Klitasoo	Klitasoo	1	Coast District, on Swindle Island, in Trout Bay, Klamtoo Passage.	812.00	November 13th, 1913
Do	Canona	2	Coast District, on Princess Royal Island, on the Western shore of Graham Reach.	342.00	Do
Kitimat	Kitimat	1	Coast District, on the left bank of Klaklaliah River, Douglas Channel, 1/4 mile from its mouth.	467.00	September 29th, 1913
Do	Do	2	Coast District, on the Eastern shore of Douglas Channel, 3 miles South of Reserve No. 1.	186.00	Do
Do	Wawelth	3	Coast District, on the Eastern shore of Douglas Channel, 1 mile South of Reserve No. 2.	41.50	Do
Do	Tehla	4	Coast District, at the head of Kildala Arm, Douglas Channel.	12.50	Do
Do	Twinguise	5	Coast District, on the Northern shore of Minnette Bay, Kitimat Arm, and W. of Lot 210, R. 5, Coast District.	92.00	September 29th, 1913, as amended January 20th, 1916
Do	Bish	6	Coast District, on the Western shore of Kitimat Arm, 2 miles N. of Coate Island.	180.00	Do
Do	Kuaste (Kildala Arm)	8	Coast District, on the Northern shore of Kildala Arm, approximately 3 miles S. of Clio Bay, Kitimat Arm.	5.00	Do
Kitkahta	Kitkahta	1	Coast District, on the Northern shore of Kitkahta Bay, Douglas Channel.	278.00	September 26th, 1913
Do	Burial Ground	2	Coast District, on the left bank of the Quaal River, Kitkahta Bay, at its mouth.	0.53	Do
Do	Quaal	3	Coast District, on the right bank of Quaal River, 1 mile from its mouth.	71.50	Do
Do	Kulkyay (Harty Bay)	4	Coast District, on the Southern shore of Harty Bay, Douglas Channel.	323.00	Do

Confirmations—Bella Coola—1

MINUTES OF DECISION—BELLA COOLA AGENCY

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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1916

MINUTES OF DECISION

In virtue of powers and instructions from the Governments of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of British Columbia contained in Commissions issued under the Great Seal of Canada respectively on the 23rd day of April, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, and the 7th day of April, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fourteen, to us directed, authorizing and empowering us as a Commission to fix, determine and establish the number, extent and locality of the Reserves to be set aside, allowed, established and constituted for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Province of British Columbia, we, the undersigned, having in each case made due enquiry into all matters affecting the requirements of the said Indians, do hereby declare the following to be the Reserves for the undermentioned Indian Tribes respectively, the date of our decision being in each case stated.

Dated at Victoria, British Columbia,
this 31st day of May, in the year
of Our Lord one thousand nine
hundred and sixteen.

N. W. WHITE, *Chairman*,
J. A. J. MCKENNA,
S. CARMICHAEL,
J. P. SHAW,
D. H. MACDOWALL,
Commissioners.

Bella Coola Agency—Bella Bella Tribe

ORDERED: That the Indian Reserves of the Bella Bella Tribe, described in the Official Schedule of Indian Reserves, 1913, BE CONFIRMED as now fixed and determined and shewn on the Official Plans of Survey, viz.:

- "No. 1—Bella Bella—Coast District on Campbell Island, in McLaghlin Bay, 1625.00 acres;
- "No. 1A—Burial Ground—Coast District on Denny Island, on eastern shore of Plumper Channel, opposite Reserve No. 1, 17.00 acres;
- "No. 2—Hoonees—Coast District, on the Western shore of Roscoe Inlet, near its mouth, 21.00 acres;
- "No. 3—Quartcha—Coast District, at the mouth of Quartcha River, Roscoe Inlet, 32.00 acres;
- "No. 4—Noota—Coast District, at the mouth of Noota River, near the head of Roscoe Inlet, 16.50 acres;
- "No. 5—Clatse—Coast District, at the mouth of Clatse River, Roscoe Inlet, 222.00 acres;
- "No. 6—Elcho—Coast District, on the left bank of Elcho River, Dean Canal, 80.00 acres;
- "No. 7—Kisameet—Coast District on King Island, Fisher Channel, at the mouth of Kisameet River, 13.00 acres;
- "No. 8—Howeet—Coast District, at the mouth of Howeet River, Lama Passage, Hunter Island, 610.00 acres;

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MINUTES OF DECISION—BELLA COOLA AGENCY

- "No. 9—Kunsoot—Coast District, at the mouth of Kunsoot River, Gunboat Passage, Denny Island, 95.00 acres;
 "No. 10—Kajustus—Coast District, on the Northern shore of Denny Island, Gunboat Passage, 16.50 acres;
 "No. 11—Werkinellek—Coast District, Goose Islands, about 25 miles southwest of Bella Bella, 63.00 acres;
 "No. 12—Yellertlee—Coast District, on the Goose Islands, about ½ mile north-east of Reserve No. 11, 161.50 acres."

Victoria, B.C., September 26th, 1913.

CERTIFIED CORRECT,
 C. H. GIBBONS, *Secretary*.

The Commission having under consideration Bella Coola Agency Application No. 75, of the Bella Bella Tribe or Band, for a certain tract or parcel of land at the mouth of Quathinsee or Salmon River, east side of Yeo Island, Bullock Channel, the same being contained in Lot No. One Hundred and Thirty-four (134), Range Three (3), Coast Land District, for use as a Fishing Station, it was

ORDERED: That there be allowed under this Application, and established and constituted a Reserve for the use and benefit of the applicant Bella Bella Tribe or Band, that certain tract or parcel of land described in the Application, containing an area of Ten (10) acres, more or less, subject to survey and to the expiration of Pulp Lease covering same or to the consent of the lessees being obtained prior to the expiration of the said lease.

Victoria, B.C., May 18th, 1916.

CERTIFIED CORRECT,
 C. H. GIBBONS, *Secretary*.

The Commission having under consideration Bella Coola Agency Application No. 76, of the Bella Bella Tribe or Band, for a certain tract or parcel of land being (a) Pole Island, approximately Two (2) miles North-east of Bella Bella and containing an area of Two (2) acres, more or less; and (b) a small unnamed island approximately One (1) mile East of Bella Bella, in front of the east Bella Bella Cannery, containing approximately One (1) acre, this Application being made by Ashdown H. Green, B.C.L.S., accompanied by sketch plan, for use as a Fishing Station and Graveyards, it was

ORDERED: That there be allowed under this Application and established and constituted a Reserve for the use and benefit of the applicant Bella Bella Tribe or Band, a certain tract or parcel of land being Pole Island, approximately Two (2) miles North-east of Bella Bella, containing an area of Two (2) acres, more or less; also unnamed island approximately One (1) mile East of Bella Bella Cannery, containing an area of One (1) acre, more or less, as per sketch plan of