
RETURN

To an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to the House copies of all correspondence between the Government of this Province and the Government of the Dominion relative to the Songhees Indian Reserve, or better known as the Indian Reserve, situated within the Corporation limits of the City of Victoria.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,

Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
8th February, 1894.*

The Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th day of February, 1890, will be found on page 25 of the Journals of that year, and the reply thereto received from the Dominion Government is printed in the Sessional Papers, 1890.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 2nd day of February, 1891.

The Committee of Council submit for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the following Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly during its present Session, viz. :—

“That whereas by the Terms of Union the management of the Indian Reserves of the Province was assumed by the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians :

“And whereas Section 119, Esquimalt District, Victoria Harbour, lying within the limits of the City of Victoria, is one of such Reserves, and is the residence of the Songhees tribe of Indians, now few in number :

“And whereas the position of the said Reserve renders it unsuitable as a place of residence for said tribe of Indians, and tends to their demoralization, and to prevent the progress and prosperity of said city, and makes it expedient that the tribe should be removed to some suitable locality, and the control of the said Reserve be resumed by the Provincial Government :

“Be it therefore resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honour to take whatever steps he may deem necessary to accomplish the above object.”

The Committee advise that a copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Certified.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
Deputy Clerk Executive Council.

OTTAWA, 13th February, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honour, in continuation of prior correspondence on the subject of the removal of the Songhees tribe of Indians from their present Reserve on Victoria Harbour to a more suitable position, to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 5th instant, transmitting in the said connection copy of an approved Report of a Committee of your Executive Council, and to state that the same will receive attention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) L. A. CATELLIER,
Under Secretary of State.

His Honour
The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, 14th February, 1893.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, copy of a Report of a Committee of my Executive Council, approved by me on the 10th inst., embodying the resolution of the Legislative Assembly respecting the removal of the Songhees Tribe of Indians to some suitable locality.

This vexed question has, I am aware, been on more than one occasion brought to the notice of the Dominion Government, but on account of not being able to obtain a surrender from the Indians interested in the Reserve, it has been impossible to take any steps to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the case.

Should, however, your Government desire that I should personally interest myself in an endeavour to bring about a surrender of this Reserve, I shall be glad to receive instructions to that effect, and subsequently to make suggestions as to the disposition of the property, which occupies, as you are aware, a somewhat different position to the other Reserves in the Province.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) E. DEWDNEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Honourable the Secretary of State,
Ottawa Canada.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Executive Council, approved by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the 10th day of February, 1893.

The Committee of Council beg to submit for the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the following Resolution passed during the present Session of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, namely:—

“That whereas by the Terms of Union the management of the Indian Reserves of the Province was assumed by the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians:

“And whereas Section 119, Esquimalt District, on Victoria Harbour, lying within the limits of the City of Victoria, is one of such Reserves, and is the residence of the Songhees tribe of Indians, now few in number, and the temporary residence of large numbers of Indians from other tribes:

“And whereas the position of the said Reserve renders it unsuitable as a place of residence for the Songhees tribe of Indians, or as a temporary residence for Indians from other tribes, and tends greatly to the demoralization of said Indians, and to prevent the progress and prosperity of Victoria City, and makes it expedient that the said tribe of Songhees Indians should be removed to some suitable locality, and the control of the Reserve assumed by the Provincial Government:

"Be it therefore resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honour to take whatever steps may be necessary to press upon the Dominion Government the desirability of carrying out the above object."

The Committee advise that a copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Honourable the Secretary of State for Canada.

Certified.

(Signed) A. CAMPBELL REDDIE,
Deputy Clerk Executive Council.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
OTTAWA, 24th February, 1893.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 14th instant, enclosing an approved copy of a report of your Executive Council, embodying the resolution of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, respecting the removal of the Songhees Tribe of Indians to some suitable locality, and to state that the matter will receive consideration.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. A. CATELLIER,
Under Secretary of State.

His Honour

*The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, B. C.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
VICTORIA, 31st January, 1894.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose to you, a copy of a letter from the Honourable the Secretary of State, with a copy of an Order in Council received last October, which in the absence of Mr. Vowell I placed on one side, to consult with him before forwarding it to you with any suggestions.

As I see the matter has been again referred to in the House, I now forward it, and would suggest that a joint meeting of myself, a Committee of the Executive Council, and Mr. Vowell (the Provincial Superintendent) might be held to discuss the matter, and endeavour to arrive at some understanding by which negotiations may be again opened with the Songhees Indians, for the surrender of their property.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) E. DEWDNEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Deputy Provincial Secretary, Victoria.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
OTTAWA, 30th October, 1893.

SIR,—Adverting to your dispatch of the 14th February last, transmitting copy of an approved report of a Committee of your Executive Council, as therein set forth, respecting the removal of the Songhees Tribe of Indians from their Reserve, which is within the limits of the City of Victoria, to a more suitable place, I have now the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of an order which His Excellency in Council was pleased to make in the premises on the 21st of October instant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. A. CATELLIER,
Under Secretary of State.

His Honour

*The Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia,
Victoria, B. C.*

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 21st October, 1893.

The Committee have had under consideration a despatch (hereto attached) dated the 14th February, 1893, from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, transmitting a report of a committee of his Executive Council embodying a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, respecting the removal of the Songhees Tribe of Indians from their reserve, which is within the limits of the City of Victoria, to a more suitable place. The resolution in question urges that whatever steps may be necessary be taken to press upon the Dominion Government the desirability of removing the Songhees Indians, and His Honour intimates in his despatch that, should your Excellency's Government desire him to personally interest himself in an endeavour to bring about a surrender of the Songhees Reserve, he would be glad to receive instructions to that effect and subsequently to make suggestions as to the disposition of the property.

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred, reports that he fully concurs in the view that it is highly desirable that the Songhees Indians should be moved to a more suitable locality, and that he would be glad to avail himself of the proffered services of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia in negotiating for a surrender with the Indians, who of late years have expressed their aversion to removing from their reserve.

The Minister is of opinion that before entering with the Government of British Columbia upon joint negotiations with the Songhees Indians for the surrender of their reserve, it would be better for Your Excellency in Council to have before you the suggestions which His Honour offers to make as to the disposition of the said reserve when surrendered, and recommends that a certified copy of this minute, if approved, be forwarded to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia in answer to his despatch above referred to.

The Committee, concurring in the above recommendations, submit the same for Your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOSEPH POPE.
Assistant Clerk of the Privy Council.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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