

(Sampere) IV

to leave, but while they were getting ready to leave an indian woman <sup>the wife of one of the prisoners.</sup> came forward & took hold of one of the constables (Pat Phillipson) saying, "I am going to take one of the constables to look after me, while my husband is away. I will need a man, to help me & keep me." She was a very large woman, and she was assisted by about 20 women. They were sincere in their efforts, & the police thought it a joke & they left & let the officer get out of it, as best he could & it was only thru Mr. Sampere's influence with the people that they would let him go.

On Wednesday morning the Kitwanthol men were on hand to catch the train to Hazelton, & they accompanied the police to that place.

At their hotel, Magistrate Hoskins tried the case & told them that he had no authority to inquire into any question dealing with the "Land Question"; but he was going to deal with the charge in question of "interfering with the survey and taking the law in their own hands." Police Officer Owen, put in a strong plea for clemency in favor of the prisoners. Sampere acted as interpreter in everything. The justice gave a sentence of suspended sentence for six months warning the natives that next time, they must not take the law in their own hands.

Kitwancool Vertical File in Archives

1. Van Province Sept. 13 1924

"White Men Captured and Tied by Indians in Kitwancool Valley"

A. P. Hoare a forestry engineer in Hazelton and his assistant, on reconnaissance for cedar, stopped and held for trial.

12 <sup>old</sup> chiefs including one squaw", also another chief's secretary  
Opened with prayer (closed with hymn <sup>from</sup> "God From Whom all Blessings Flow") Questioned (as in census) Told:

"We beg to state that it was the wish of our ancestors, as it is our wish, that all the products on that area north of the nine mile post in this valley, and for a distance in that direction of 115 miles by 60 miles east and west, remain ours.

"When we effect a settlement with the government we will dispose of the said products on a royalty basis, but until that time no white man shall enter there and you are requested to return at once."

"I can not but have respect for those people."

[copy whole article for quotes]

2. Nov. 3/8/27 "Indian sent to jail for obstructing survey"

5 Kitwancool Indians convicted in Smithers

Richard Douse - susp  
Bert Williams }  
Peter Williams } 1-3 months  
Samuel Douse }  
Walter Derrick }

Survey party sent by Ind Affairs to survey the reserves

Peter Williams sec. of council  
about " pres. arrested

gwa'astai'm