

Fri Feb. 25 '72

INDIAN RESERVES in BC (3)

There is the first of two lectures on Indian Reserve Land
1 general 1 specific

On Monday I will deal with a specific situation - the
reserves in new W.C. National Park (slides)

Today I want to give a general historical overview
of the entire picture - ^{not just because time short} but as a conscious exercise to get overall picture
difficult: the most ^{simple} basic questions often most difficult
Did the Indians get a fair share of land?
How did they make out? - fair land base?
and why?

The BC situation has ended differently from Canada, US.

190 bands	1625 reserves	2274 in Canada
558 (Canada)	845,000 acs.	6,000,000
	c 20 ac/person	c 30 ac/person

A very large number of small scattered reserves

How did this come about?

Did it accomplish the original intentions?

Does it constitute a fair land base?

Is it still unfinished business like title?

2 Douglas: we have to go back to his policy as Gov VI & BC

1850-64: I am more and more impressed

he had no great admiration for Indians or cultures
but did understand, and granted that they were
people with some rights, which he stood up for
Indians pleased (Edenshaw put him on pole at Kung)

Fairness

Got policy off to a good start (it got changed later)

Policy:

1. Not to segregate Indians from whites
intermingling would "advance in civilization"
2. Large reserves satisfy all their wishes
as large as they want

Letter

3. Treaties: reserves without treaties ^{departure} British

4. Idea of lease revenue

5. To protect against sale, vested title in Crown

Speech

fought for Indian rights

6. Indians could also pre-empt land.

By 1864: V.I. reserves to Conox

: BC large reserves (not clearly surveyed)
Fraser Valley, Thompson, Okanagan

Douglas - 1856 to VI House of Assembly

I shall... continue to conciliate the good will of the native Indian tribes by treating them with justice and forbearance, and by rigidly protecting their civil and agrarian rights - - -

3. Trutch Policy 1864-71 Joseph Trutch Fisher Paper
(BC only) 1864 Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works
Gov Seymour's right hand man

Attitudes: Indians are savages standing in way of
proper development of B.C. lands

Quote on Lower Fraser reserves

"Re-surveys" of reserves: Kamloops : Okanagan
reductions : Lower Fraser

Indian reaction

no compensation
no records

no pre-emption

What this was was attitude of settlers

Colonist

an attitude we still have

Mackay

1864-71 Was the time when policy had its harshest
expression: lost chance for a fair deal.

Reversal of British policy

- denial of title

- very small reserves

leading for confrontation with Dominion & Indians

4. Confederation 1871 Article 13

British still in control : Lieut-Gov.
Policy liberal, Indians happy. - Article 13.

Tried to keep control of policy
- in hands of Lt Gov.
- 3 man committee.

Ottawa was slowly learning what the situation was
The Indians were getting very angry.

Article 13 Terms of Union

... the charge of the Indians and the trusteeship and management of the land reserved for their use and benefit shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and a policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia government shall be continued by the Dominion Government after Union. To carry out such a policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed by the Local Government to the Dominion Government:.....

5. Indian Unrest: almost a war in Interior BC
Kamloops - Okan - Border - trying to unite
" " get together with
Chief Joseph.

1877 Beave Commission [telegram]

1877 Mills [Letter]

Incredible situation:

Feds had caught one - or about little
but wouldn't act unless Indians made war.

OK to go ahead with Reserves without Treaties

Indian situation very grave from Kamloops to
American border. - general dissatisfaction -
outbreak possible - Indians attempting to
confederate. - American Indian representatives
present at meetings. - Magistracy, clergy and
white people full of alarm.

(Telegram of Sproat and Anderson to Minister of Interior
13 July 1877. (Keewee Commission Correcy) - Fisher -

(Chief Joseph)

The Daily British Colonist

8 March 1861

... shall we allow a few red vagrants to prevent forever industrious settlers from settling on the unoccupied lands. Not at all --- Locate reservations for them on which to earn their own living, and if they trespass on white settlers punish them severely. A few lessons would soon enable them to form a correct estimation of their own inferiority, and settle the Indian title too.

Lower Fraser Chiefs - Petition 1868

Governor Douglas did send, some years ago his men amongst us to measure our Reserve and although they gave us only a small patch of land in comparison to what they allowed to a white man our neighbour, we were resigned to our lot ---.

Some days ago some new men who told us that by order of their Chief they have to curtail our small reservation, and so they did to our greater grief; not only they shortened our land, but --- they set aside our best land, some of our gardens, and gave us in place, some hilly and sandy land, where it is next to impossible to raise any potatoes: our hearts are full of grief day and night.

Trutch - 1867 - Report on Lower Fraser Indian Reserves

The Indians really have no right to the lands they claim, nor are they of any actual value or utility to them ...

It seems to me, therefore, both just and politic that they should be confirmed in the possession of such extents of land only as are sufficient for their probable requirements for purposes of cultivation and pasturage, and that the remainder of the land now shut up in their reserves should be thrown open to pre-emption.

[i.e. 10 ac / family
cf. 160 ac pre-emption for white men]