

RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly praying for copies of all correspondence between Benjamin Richardson of the City of Nanaimo and the Government, respecting a certain piece of land situate in the Nanaimo District; and between John Gemmell, of the City of Nanaimo, and the Government, respecting a certain piece of land situate in the New Westminster District.

By Command.

ROBERT BEAVEN,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Lands and Works Office,

3rd April, 1875.

BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

APPLICATION FOR LAND IN CRANBERRY DISTRICT, 25TH JUNE, 1873.

Mr. Benjamin Richardson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, May 5th, 1873.

SIR,—I wish you to grant me permission to pre-empt a piece of land situate in the Nanaimo District (I believe), containing about one hundred acres, known as No. 7. (See foot of map of Cranberry District.) By granting me said permission you would greatly oblige, &c.,

(Signed) BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

See plan on back of this sheet.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Benjamin Richardson.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,

VICTORIA, B. C., May 9th, 1873.

SIR,—In reply to your application dated 5th inst., for permission to pre-empt Section 7, Nanaimo District, I have the honor to inform you that the said section is not in any way under the control of this Department, having been paid for in full by the purchaser. I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

I have returned your duplicate application to Mr. Fawcett.

Mr. Benjamin Richardson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, B. C., June 25th, 1873.

SIR,—I wish to obtain a permission from you to occupy a piece of land of 160 acres extent, situate in Ranges 5 and 6, Section 13, Cranberry District. By granting me a permission you would oblige

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

N. B.—See sketch map on back of this sheet.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. T. L. Fawcett.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE, July 7th, 1873.

SIR,— * * * * *

I have the honor to inform you that I am unable to grant permission to Benjamin Richardson and Joseph Perkins to occupy land under the "Land Ordinance, 1870."

* * * * *

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Mr. Benjamin Richardson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, B. C., July 14th, 1873.

SIR,—I wish to know from you respecting my application of the 25th ult., for permission to pre-empt a piece of land situated in Cranberry District—one hundred acres in Section 13, Range 5, sixty acres in Section 13, Range 6. Now, Sir, I wish to know if my application is granted or not, as I wish to proceed with the place, having gone to considerable outlay to the present. If the application is not granted, why not? as it has been in since the 25th ult. If granted, why have I not my application to hand so as to be able to proceed with my work? You will perceive that this is the second application I have made of late, and gone to a considerable amount of trouble already, and cannot understand why there is so much delay, and inconvenience to me. By answering me these questions and oblige

Yours, &c.,

(Signed)

BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Benjamin Richardson.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,

VICTORIA, 23rd July, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., in reference to the pre-emption of certain lands in Cranberry District. In reply I beg to inform you that an answer to your letter of the 25th June was sent to Mr. Fawcett, Government Agent, Nanaimo, on the 7th inst., directing that gentleman to inform you that previous to the receipt of your application I had received instructions to reserve a belt of land twenty miles in width from the coast line, for Railway purposes. I will, however, place your application before the Executive Council, and the result of their decision shall be made known to you at an early date.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Mr. Benjamin Richardson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, B. C., July 29th, 1874.

SIR,—I wish to draw the attention of your Department to my application of June 25th, 1873, for permission to pre-empt certain lands in Cranberry District. The application was in the branch office of the Government prior to the order to reserve of twenty miles.

In your letter of July 23rd, 1874, you stated that you would place my application before the Executive Council, and forward the result at an early date. Now, sir, I wish to be informed what course the Government intend to pursue. I possess all papers appertaining to the land, and I think my title indisputable to said land. Hoping to hear from you, I beg to remain,

Yours, etc.,

(Signed)

BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

I laid the case before Mr. Farwell, and he, I understand, has laid it before the Department.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Benjamin Richardson.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
3rd August, 1874.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 29th July, 1874, in reference to your application for permission to pre-empt 160 acres of land in Cranberry District, and in reply I have the honor to inform you that the sketch map of yours does not agree with the official map as regards the position of the Sections, and would beg that you would more distinctly describe the Range and Section you desire to pre-empt.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Mr. Benjamin Richardson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, B. C., August 6, 1874.

SIR,—Yours duly to hand. I cannot comprehend how the sketch map accompanying my application should not agree with the official map, as I most distinctly stated the Section and Range of the land applied for. However, I will transmit you another sketch in substance same as first, which you will find by close scrutiny correct. The land is surveyed land, and I take the figures on the pegs (or posts) at the corners of the land itself.

Hoping I have obliged you, I beg to remain yours truly,
(Signed) BENJAMIN RICHARDSON.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. Benjamin Richardson.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 18th August, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 29th ult. and 6th inst., in which you inform me that you possess all the papers appertaining to the land, and that you are satisfied that your title is indisputable.

In reply I beg to inform you that under those circumstances it is unnecessary that I should enquire further into the question, and must beg to be excused for having addressed you thereon. The circumstances were, however, otherwise reported to me.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

JOHN GEMMELL.

IN REFERENCE TO ALTERATION OF LAND UNDER PRE-EMPTION RECORD AND
CROWN GRANT APPLICATION.

Mr. John Gemmell to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NEW WESTMINSTER,
18th February, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to apply for a Crown Grant of my pre-emption claim No. 1170, situated at Boundary Bay.

I enclose original pre-emption record, No. 1160, to J. Brennan, with transfer to him from C. Hunt, No. 5, and certificate of improvement to C. Hunt, No. 13; also transfer from Brennan to myself, No. 8, and pre-emption record, No. 1170.

I also enclose certificate of notice, No. 3, and receipt for purchase money. My claim is included in land recently surveyed by Mr. Ralph, and I do not suppose there can be any difficulty in issuing to me a Crown Grant without the further survey for which I have applied. I am willing to take it either as pre-empted, or abandon the back portion and take the full frontage along the shore, but I do not wish to move any to the west as the land is gravelly. I do not object moving a little east, provided my improvements are not thrown out of the claim. The sketch below will give you an idea of what I mean. The claims east of me are abandoned. Please address me care of Mr. H. V. Edmonds, New Westminster. I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN GEMMELL,
per H. V. EDMONDS.

*The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. H. V. Edmonds,
Agent for John Gemmell.*

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, April 20th, 1874.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th of February last, applying for a Crown Grant of your pre-emption claim, No. 1170, New Westminster District; and enclosing pre-emption records, Nos. 1160 and 1170; certificate of improvement, No. 13, transfers, Nos. 5 and 8; and certificate of purchase, No. 124. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that a Crown Grant cannot be issued for land which is unsurveyed; also, that you can take for your pre-emption record, No. 1170, the north-west quarter of section 10, in Township No. 1, containing 156 acres, more or less; and the \$4 overpaid will be refunded to you. That, otherwise, the "Land Act, 1874," when in operation, will provide for your case. Should you wish to accept this proposition you must advise me thereof within the next 30 days. I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Messrs. Robertson & Johnson to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

VICTORIA, B. C., 14th September, 1874.

RE PRE-EMPTION RECORD 1170, NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

SIR,—Mr. Gemmell has handed us your letter of the 20th April last, informing him that for his pre-emption he may take certain land, not so valuable and not included therein. We are instructed to say that Mr. G. prefers the land originally taken up, and is anxious to obtain his Crown Grant therefor. We beg to request that you will forward to us, for him, a grant of the premises, at your early convenience.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERTSON & JOHNSON.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Messrs. Robertson & Johnson.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, October 14th, 1874.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, in reference to J. Gemmell's pre-emption record, No. 1170, New Westminster District, and in which you state that I offered him, under date 20th April, 1874, a piece of land not included within his record, and not as valuable; and, in reply, beg to inform you that my object in making the offer above referred to was in order to facilitate his obtaining a Crown Grant by conforming to lines as surveyed; but as he did not accept the offer the matter ended there.

Subsequently, Mr. Mahood was dispatched to adjust the boundaries of pre-emptors in this Township, but Mr. Gemmell was absent, and nothing further could be done.

I beg, therefore, to call your attention to the Notice in the *British Columbia Gazette*, under date 3rd October, 1874, as I believe the pre-emption record above referred to covers land in Section 10, Township No. 1.

You will readily see from the above circumstances that I have been precluded by the action of Mr. Gemmell from completing the preliminary steps previous to the issuance of a Crown Grant. I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Mr. John Gemmell to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, January 29th, 1875.

SIR,—I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to see if we cannot come to any agreement about my claim over on Boundary Bay, seeing from my non-residence it is impossible for me to prove up again. If you cannot give the claim as it was pre-empted, I am willing to take the half-quarter section on which my improvement is, with the small fraction in front of it in the south-east corner. It will not amount to much over eighty acres in all, if that. If you agree to that, you can either return the money overpaying it, or give me a receipt for it. I intend to purchase a piece of land from the Government this summer, and I could give the receipt as part payment.

Hoping to hear from you soon. I remain, &c

(Signed) JOHN GEMMELL.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to Mr. John Gemmell.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, 8th February, 1875.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ulto., in reference to your pre-emption claim on Boundary Bay, New Westminster District, and stating your willingness to take that portion of land known as the west half of the north-west quarter of Section 10, in Township No. 1, and the south-west fractional quarter of the same section, containing 83 acres in all, provided that the balance of the purchase money is returned to you. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that the arrangement above suggested is satisfactory, and on your forwarding your papers and certificate of purchase to this office a Crown Grant for the property will be issued to you with as little delay as possible, and the excess of purchase money refunded to you.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT BEAVEN,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Mr. John Gemmell to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

WELLINGTON MINES, NANAIMO,
February 10th, 1875.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., with reference to my claim on Boundary Bay, New Westminster District, and stating your willingness to give me that portion of land known as the west half of the north-west quarter of Section 10, but my improvements are on the east half of the north-west quarter of Section 10, as shown on sketch on the back. If you promise to give me that with the small fraction in the south-east corner, I will forward the papers, with certificate of purchase, as soon as possible.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN GEMMELL.

Mr. S. Farwell to Mr. John Gemmell.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 22nd February, 1875.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., with reference to your claim on Boundary Bay. In reply I have the honor to inform you that the word "west" in my letter of the 8th inst. addressed to you was a clerical error, and that the east half of the north-west quarter of Section 10, Township 1, with the small fraction in front, is the land entered in the District Registers as claimed by you.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.

Mr. John Gemmell to Mr. S. Farwell.

WELLINGTON MINES, NANAIMO,
February 24th, 1875.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst., with reference to my claim on Boundary Bay, which is satisfactory to me, and I herewith enclose the papers, together with the certificate of purchase.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN GEMMELL.

Mr. John Gemmell to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

NANAIMO, March 18th, 1875.

SIR,—I have taken the opportunity of writing you a few lines to see what is the matter my Crown Grant is not come. I sent all the papers connected with it, under promise from you to get the grant with as little delay as possible. It is now over twelve months since it was paid for, and I think it is time the grant was issued. Hoping to hear from you soon,

I have, etc.,
(Signed) JOHN GEMMELL.

Mr. S. Farwell to Mr. John Gemmell.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, B. C., 22nd March, 1875.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., with reference to the delay in issuing a Crown Grant for your land in Township No. 1, New Westminster District. In reply I have the honor to inform you that the refund will be made and the grant forwarded in all probability next week.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.

Mr. S. Farwell to Mr. John Gemmell.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, 2nd April, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that your Crown Grant for the east half of the north-west quarter of Section 10, Township 1, New Westminster District, and the fractional south-west quarter of the same section, has been forwarded this mail to the Government Agent, Nanaimo. You can also obtain the refund of \$80 from the same gentleman.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.

Mr. S. Farwell to Mr. T. L. Fawcett.

LANDS AND WORKS OFFICE,
Victoria, April 2nd, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith a Crown Grant, No. 1510, in favor of John Gemmell; also form of receipt for same; which you will please see duly signed, returning the same to this Department.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) STANHOPE FARWELL.