
RETURN

To an Order of the House for copies of all correspondence between any officer of the Government and any person in reference to all the circumstances attending the sale of 160 acres of land, or the refusal to sell said land, to Mr. Foxcrowle P. Cook; said land being situated near the mouth of Granite Creek.

F. G. VERNON,

Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Lands and Works Department,

11th April, 1890.

NICOLA, December 19th, 1888.

W. S. Gore, Esq.,

Surveyor-General, Victoria, B. C.:

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that on November 29th (last) a Mr. F. P. Cook, merchant, Granite Creek, called at this office and said he wished to purchase 160 acres of land on south side of Tulameen River, close to the town of Granite Creek. I told Mr. Cook that I was of opinion that land so close to the mines was reserved, but would enquire before publishing his notice in Gazette.

Not wishing to bother your Department with the enquiry, I concluded to await Mr. Tunstall's return from Kamloops and ask him, presuming that he knew. Mr. Cook was on his way to England for a holiday, and deposited with me fee of Gazette notice and ten per cent. on the land in case it was open to purchase.

Mr. Tunstall returned last Monday and says that he thinks that the land is open.

Last evening a Mr. Thompson, also a Granite Creek trader, called here, and in conversation informed me that he had an application for the same plot of land forwarded to Mr. Dewdney immediately after he saw Cook's notice posted on the ground. I told Thompson of Cook's application to me, and referred him to a notice on Court House dated 13th inst., copy of which I have sent Gazette. Mr. Thompson says he will contest his right against Cook's, so I don't know what to think about it; am only sorry that I did not forward Mr. Cook's notice of intention to purchase as soon as I received it, but thought there was no use in applying for land that was likely to be reserved until I knew particulars. Thompson takes the ground that the land is in Mr. Dewdney's division, and an application lodged at any other office is illegal.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

JNO. CLAPPERTON,
Assistant Commissioner.

NICOLA, January 18th, 1889.

*The Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works,
Victoria, B. C.*

Re FOXCROWLE P. COOK.

SIR.—I have the honour to forward in above certificate of purchase, No. 117, to 160 acres. Some time ago I wrote your Department regarding above, *re* an application to purchase or pre-empt filed, I believe, with Mr. Dewdney, Government Agent, from Mr. W. T. Thompson, Granite Creek. I also expressed my doubts as to the land being open to any applicant. Not having heard anything on the matter, I forward Mr. Cook's application to purchase.

And have, etc.,

(Signed)

JNO. CLAPPERTON,
Assistant Commissioner.

GRANITE CREEK, April 3rd, 1889.

Hon. F. G. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

DEAR SIR,—On 23rd of November, 1888, I staked a piece of land situated above Granite Creek a short distance, and sent papers to W. Dewdney, Esq., Vernon. I also advertised same in Kamloops "Sentinel," but up to the present time have received no information regarding same. This ground was held by a Chinaman, and I purchased his right a year ago from him, but was told by Mr. Tunstall that as the land was mineral land he thought I could not purchase same. On November 23rd, hearing that parties intended to try and by means of staking prevent me from using part purchased, I staked it off and sent application to Mr. Dewdney, in whose district it is.

Since then I learned that a party by name of Cook had staked same and applied to Jno. Clapperton for it. This is not in Mr. Clapperton's district at all, and this party Cook also included a part of the bench on which town is located in his staking. His staking not only includes part of townsite, but also trail made by Government, and more than a quarter of a mile up the mountain on both sides of it.

I enclose a copy of my application and money for same, and will thank you to inform me immediately what course to pursue in the matter, as my staking preceded Cook's by five days, and does not include town, bench, or trail. Both our staking includes gold-bearing benches, and for that reason I was deterred from applying sooner to you and bothering you about it, as I really don't believe that you will allow anyone to purchase same when facts are known.

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

NOTICE.

GRANITE CREEK, November 23rd, 1889.

Sixty days after date I intend to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for permission to purchase the following land, situated in Similkameen District, and described as follows:—

Commencing at a stake a short distance above Granite Creek, marked "A"; from thence running north 160 rods; thence west 160 rods; thence south 160 rods; thence east to point of commencement.

(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 25th, 1889.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 3rd inst., having reference to an application you made to Mr. Dewdney to be permitted to purchase a certain tract of land at Granite Creek, and also referring to Mr. Cook's application to Mr. Clapperton for the same tract.

I return herewith the \$16 enclosed with your letter, and have to inform you that neither of the applications will be entertained at present, as it is not considered desirable to alienate mineral lands.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

W. T. Thompson, Esq.,
Granite Creek, B. C.

GRANITE CREEK, May 6th, 1889.

W. S. Gore Esq.,
Surveyor-General.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of April 25th read. In reply would say that this party Cook, about whom I wrote as having applied, came down to-day and tore down a fence, and began building fires adjacent to a fence made of shakes that I have surrounding a small garden, and claims the land by virtue of a right given him by John Clapperton, of Nicola, although it is not in his district, being in Mr. Dewdney's. Would you kindly inform Mr. Cook of your decision; also Mr. Clapperton.

I only have a small garden on place that I purchased and put improvements on over a year ago, and it seems hard to be bothered by a party whose only desire is malice.

Please bear in mind after your decision I am in full accord with your opinion, and always have been, as my previous letter will show.

By doing above you will greatly oblige.

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 21st, 1889.

SIR,—I beg to advise you that Mr. W. T. Thompson made application to this office to purchase a certain piece of land at Granite Creek which, I believe, is also claimed by Mr. Cook, and concerning which I think you wrote to me last winter.

Mr. Thompson's application has been refused on the grounds that it is not the practice to sell mineral lands. If Mr. Cook renews his application to you he should be refused for the same reason.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

*John Clapperton, Esq.,
Government Agent, Nicola, B. C.*

GRANITE CREEK, June 13th, 1889.

W. S. Gore, Esq., Surveyor-General.

DEAR SIR,—Your favour regarding land no doubt reached F. P. Cook, as Mr. Clapperton has advised him of your decision, but he (Cook) says he will not recognize it, and says the land is his, and he intends to hold it regardless of Mr. Clapperton's letter, and I am advised by Mr. Tunstall to write you and tell you about it. I enclose you evidence to establish a squatter's right to property in form of two enclosures. Now, after what you wrote me, I do not for an instant suppose I can get any title to it, and am not going to try until such time as you notify me to that effect; but what I would like to have you do is, that you would protect me in possession of a small garden patch of land, the right to use of which I purchased legitimately and spent over one hundred dollars in improving, until such time as some one claims it for mineral or other purposes beneficial to Government, when I will at once offer no impediment to any one who may get right for same from you, taking improvements and all. This little garden only contains about one and a half acres, and no one questioned my right to use of same until Cook, actuated by malicious motives, desired to deprive me of it. He (Cook) says he paid sixteen dollars, and as you have not returned his money the land is his until you do. I do not wish to bore you about this matter, but if you would write this party you would confer a great favour, and greatly oblige,

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

GRANITE CREEK, July 4th, 1889.

*Hon. F. G. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner Lands and Works.*

DEAR SIR,—Mr. John Clapperton can fully inform you in regard to a certain tract of land for purchase of which I made application when first desiring to purchase and applying for land. I was told by G. C. Tunstall, Gold Commissioner, that it was mineral land and it was not for sale,—a statement which was afterwards corroborated by Mr. Gore in a letter to me, saying that my application, or an application of a party named Cook, "would not be entertained." There is a claim now being worked on it for placer gold. As this party, by name of Cook, refuses to abide by Mr. Clapperton's ruling in the matter, and says he will still hold the land regardless of what he may say, and will be ruled entirely by what his lawyer says.

Now will you kindly inform this party that he has no right to drive my horses or cattle or any one else's off it. He says he has. Although I have a prior right to it, I find I have

no right at all to it, which decision I concur in, as the Government knows best; but as it is decided to be Government land I think it should be reserved as a "Common" for use of all the people here, and I will take down my fence around a small garden and throw all open to the public, as the Government evidently intends.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

GRANITE CREEK, B. C., October 7, 1889.

Hon. F. G. Vernon,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

DEAR SIR,—Some time since I sent you a communication relative to land at Granite Creek, on which you have given your decision through Mr. Gore, Surveyor-General, on April 25th. Your decision was as I had expected and been informed by the Gold Commissioner would be. In his opinion "It is not considered desirable to alienate mineral lands." In this I am in hearty accord with you; but to show you what right I had to above and improvements on same, I sent you a couple of bills of sale of improvements from former owners, and expected them to be returned to me.

You would greatly oblige me by returning same to W. W. Spinks, Kamloops, as it is absolutely necessary that I should have them before 19th inst. I will feel grateful to you if you would see that this is done, as I must produce above papers to establish ownership to certain personal property in conjunction with above.

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

GRANITE CREEK, B. C., October 7th, 1889.

W. S. Gore,
Surveyor-General.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please return me bills of sale, sent to your office some time since, by first mail. It is absolutely necessary that I should have same before 19th inst.

Please send same in registered letter to W. W. Spinks, Kamloops, for if sent to me they would be too late.

Please see that this is done and greatly oblige,

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. T. THOMPSON.

VICTORIA, B. C., October 16th, 1889.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 7th inst., asking that bills of sale in connection with a piece of land at Granite Creek be sent to Mr. Spinks at Kamloops, I beg to say the same were forwarded to Mr. Spinks yesterday as requested by your former letter.

I have, etc.,

(Signed)

W. S. GORE,
Surveyor-General.

W. T. Thompson,
Granite Creek, B. C.

VICTORIA B. C.:

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