

Zeballos October 15th, 1938.

On leaving Mr. Alex. MacDonald last night we told him that we were going to check up on the Rex Group of claims starting out first thing this morning. He said the Rex Group, the Bawdy house is on a fraction of the Rex Group, and gave us directions how to get there saying he might come with us, as he had to see the landlady - Mrs. Mony. We had breakfast at 6:30 a.m. and went out into the hills on our own with the intention of checking up on this woman ourselves. We started checking lines and stakes around the brothel shortly after noon and while doing so, a woman at the rear of the brothel asked us to help her open a gasoling drum, she asked if we were looking for the posts and showed us the stake of the Tagore Claim. She, also, asked if we wanted to see the girls, telling us that she was the cook and had only been here with Mrs. Mony a short time. She told us that madam and the girls were still in bed so we told her we would not bother them but that we would have a drink. She told us that she was French Bertha from Bridge River and that she used to bootleg then. While in the brothel, the Madam came out in her bathrobe and we got her talking about how she happened to come here, telling her that we were friends of Alex. MacDonald. She said that she had bought the lot through Cameron from Bill Sloan, and that she had a deed or transfer for it, that she had to clear it from the road to build, and also put a bridge in. She said that MacDonald had told her she was on a mining claim, so he got her a miner's license so that they could not put her off. This, after she had built her house which the Chief had classed officially as a rooming house. I told her that there was a dispute about the Rex Claims and would like to see her title as her ground was on a fraction of the Rex Group. She brought out the staking and recording by Bill Sloan, dated 6th and 8th of April this year, also a Bill of Sale transferring the surface rights of W.K. Rex Fraction 700 feet and allowing her to build a road and a house for a consideration of \$750.00. She said this also cost her more than \$500.00 and that the house also cost plenty. She said she had sold her place in Calgary to come here and if she could get her money out of it she would leave tomorrow. This is the best gold mine in Zeballos but she has to give it all away again in a payoff. When we left, French Bertha told us that Mrs. Mony, who is also French, is at her wits ends the way they are riding her on the payoff. On returning to Zeballos we visited the Miner's Rest Club. This is a Cafe and bootlegging joint with three slot machines and open night and day. Being acquainted with McKinley, he was quite open about his business selling his liquor without interference. Made no break about anything here as Cameron and McKinley are very friendly. Jack Grausen "Cottonwood Jack" formerly from Prince George is operating a bakery a 100 yards above McKinley's Club and also bootlegging. Cameron is riding him and he has to do his selling on the quiet as he won't kick through. In talking to Mr. Tom Dawson of Dawson Bros. hardware store, learned that a large number of complaints had gone into Victoria about Chief Cameron and that prior to Mrs. Cameron and Constable Fleet coming to the camp, Cameron was about the most drunken character in the town mixing and drinking with the miners in the bootleg joints. Dawson told us that he holds a cheque from the Chief signed by his son for \$1500.00 - this was given him by Cameron and his wife on a property deal and that there was no money to cover it. I said I would like to see it. He said it is in the safe there, and when the time comes he will use it. He has also stopped the credit of Cameron at the store which he owes a bill of some \$40.00 and is threatening to garnishee his wages. He said that the better people of the town had organised a Board of Trade on the 15th of September and that they had

resolved that Cameron must go as he was a detriment to the town. He told us that before the Brothel house landlady, Mrs. Alphonse Mony, was allowed to build her house she had to kick through with \$2500.00 to Cameron and two others, one of whom was a contractor. This money was divided between the three of them, then she had to pay to have her brothel built. He figured the house alone had her stuck for around \$7000.00, exclusive of the furnishings. He said she is the best pay in town but she is being shaken down so much that she has to pay her bills a little at a time. This is one of the reasons they want Cameron out, we know what he is doing it is talked about all over the place quite openly. He has the McLeod brothers running a Club. This is the same as McKinley's, running night and day with a barber shop, poolroom and Cafe and the liquor in a house at the rear. This is not molested. A Chinese woman, Mary Wong, operating a fruit store is also bootlegging and at times gets quite drunk. There are about 30 slot machines in the clubs and stores in this small village most of which have been put into these places by the Chief or through his agency by making them take them and from which Mr. Puhaty and Craig, mining men, say he has a rakeoff. Mr. Thistle of Nelson Bros. says that the Chief has to be talked to before anyone can start up in Zeballos and if he is not out of here soon there is going to be a hell of a lot of trouble as it is getting beyond endurance. There is not a person in the place who does not treat him with contempt. He says his wife is flying back and forth to Vancouver. She has just flown in this morning with her son Bob, how the hell can anyone do it on a policeman's pay without grafting. Mr. Carr, taxi driver, says Cameron gets liquor by the bottle for the boys he knows at \$8.00 per bottle and there is never any change from a \$10.00 bill, it can be bought elsewhere for \$6.00. Bill Miller and Jack Frost of the Utility Co. or Power house tell the same story as Mr. Dawson, so does Mr. Pross or Prossett of the Development Company.

During the late evening and night we visited the clubs and beer parlor. Everything was wide open although business was quiet, as only about 40 men had come down from the mines this pay day. The taxi man of Sheads says they are staying in Camp as they are being hooked in the poker games which are being played in the three clubs. Learned, also, this evening that Cameron had brought in a notorious pimp white slaver and bootlegger. This man was an associate (when Cameron was Chief of Police in Vancouver) of Joe Celona, and the Bancroft's who were sent to the penitentiary when Mayor McGeer made his vice clean up in Vancouver. French Henry jumped out of Vancouver at this time and was supposed to have gone to France. French Henry arrived in Zeballos this morning at the same time as the Chief's wife and her son Bob which may or may not be a coincidence in any case all are very friendly. We, also, learned this morning, through Mr. Thomson, that Cameron had been buying or supposedly owned property and made the small Chinese laundry and storekeepers buy their lots through him at fancy prices--lots ranging around \$1000.00--it was a case of buy being unable to start business in the town. In talking with Mr. Vickers the proprietor of the Zeballos Hotel, he says that the Chief boasts of his pull with the Attorney General and the Hon. Wells Gray and says one of the reasons, the Board of Trade was formed so soon in this young town was that the business men intend to get Cameron out of here or know the reason why he is kept, and who is keeping him here against their complaints or they have to take action of some kind.

A liberal association has been formed here and the officers are all against the Chief whom the decent citizens say is not a fit man to handle

their policing. Mr. Vickers is a former B.C. Police Constable and is on the executive of the Board of Trade. He seems to be a gentleman and do not think he would be so open in his talk without reason--his is the only hotel not bootlegging. Learned from him that another fraction of the Rex mining claims were sold to a Chinese named Charlie Sing, who works for "The Club" operated by McLeod Bros. bootleggers for \$250.00 but whether through the agency of Cameron am unable to find out, it was also sold by Bill Sloan.

The decent people of the town speak very highly of Constable Fleet and say anything might have happened had he not been sent here, as the Chief is much in disfavor with the miners and business people alike and that conditions were at their worst when he arrived.

Yours respectfully,

W.S. Bell,

&

F. Seward.