

SUBJECT *Vancouver R.R.O.*

File No. *C60-4.*

1944

REMARKS

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT  
VICTORIA, B.C.

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LAND REGISTRY OFFICE

VANCOUVER, B.C.,

April 7th, 19 42.

The Honourable R.L.Maitland, K.C.,  
Attorney-General,  
VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Pat:

The present situation, especially that regarding the Japanese and other aliens in British Columbia, is, of course, giving us all a great deal of consternation. For a long time I have been of the opinion that we should take a leaf out of the book of our American cousins and make it illegal for aliens to hold land in B.C. When I was in the State of Washington the year I lived in Spokane, I purchased a house only to be told by the ex attorney general for the State that it was the law that no foreigner could hold land in the United States. It is true that he told me that people of British origin were allowed to hold property as nobody took the trouble to take the appropriate action to have the property declared confiscated, but the law was such that it could be done at any time. It seems to me that this is a matter that you might well consider. Just where Provincial and Dominion rights would come in here might be a question but I would think it was a matter of property and civil right and therefore within the competence of the Province. Anyhow I am making the suggestion to you for what it is worth.

If you are in Vancouver any time shortly and have any spare time I would like to have a chat with you. I know, of course, that members of the Government when in Vancouver are swamped and therefore I have not made any attempt to see you up to date. If though you had a few moments and could drop in to the Land Registry Office when you are in the Court House we would be much freer from interruption than if I attempted to see you in your own office.

I am glad to hear through Mr. Crane that you are evincing some interest in the employees under your jurisdiction. I have been told by employees in this office that for over 30 years no Attorney-General has ever visited the office or made any enquiries with regard to the staff. I have, since I have been here, more or less made a nuisance of myself in endeavouring to get what I considered justice for this staff. I had succeeded so far with your immediate predecessor that I had got him to see and admit that the Land Registry Office staff was not a routine staff; that thw work in the office with regard to at least 80% of its members was at each step a judicial proceeding and for that reason some special consideration should be given to the question of our salaries and I was informed in July of last year that something was actually going to be done about it. I furnished your predec-

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The Honourable R.L.Maitland, K.C.

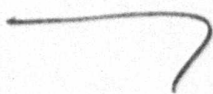
essor with a very complete brief on the subject, a copy of which I have and would be glad to furnish you if you would care to look at it. Without going into details, I found by a check of receipts and expenditures in various offices, that the Land Registry Office was the best revenue producer that the Government had with the exception, of course, of taxation and one other department. Of the departments which earn their own salaries by work done within said offices, as opposed to Amusement Tax and general taxation, the Land Registry Offices (speaking now without looking at my brief) furnish the Government with the greatest amount of revenue.

I also found in some department clerks graded as third accountants received more salary than the Deputy in this office whose work is entirely judicial. I also found that the man who is called Chief Accountant in your office receives a larger salary than the Deputy in this office, which I, personally, think is scandalous. Mr. Crane, as Registrar and Inspector of Legal Offices, does not, in my opinion, receive sufficient remuneration, of which fact I tried to impress on your two immediate predecessors. As far as I am concerned, I was promised a net salary when I came here and that contract was violated and during the first two years I was here I received nearly \$1700.00 less than the contract which the then Attorney-General, Mr. Justice Sloan, stated ~~was the contract~~ under which I was hired.

I should like, so far as my staff is concerned, to discuss the matter with you if you feel you have the time to spare and there are also certain other matters that I should like to discuss with you.

Yours obediently,

*Wm. Brown*



WCB/BG