

Government acknowledged the importance of extinguishing the Indian claims, but declared that they had no money to devote to this object.

It is only at a later date, about 1866, when the Government was extended over the Mainland as well as the Island, that the authorities took up the position that the Indians had no claim; and that position has been held by the British Columbia Government ever since.

When British Columbia joined the Dominion of Canada it came under the provisions of the British North America Act, by which Indian affairs were placed under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government. An agreement was then come to between the two Governments by which the Province bound itself to hand over to the Dominion all the Indian Reservations; but although this agreement has been in force for 40 years it has never been made good; the Indian Reservations are still in the possession of the Provincial Government.

The differences between the Reserve system in British Columbia and in the rest of Canada are very marked. In Alberta and Saskatchewan the Reserves amount to about 180 acres per head of the Indian population; in British Columbia to only about 20 acres. In the rest of Canada the Reserves are held by the Dominion; in British Columbia by the Province. In the rest of Canada they are held in trust for the Indians; in British Columbia the Indians are supposed only to have a temporary occupation. And, most important of all, in the rest of Canada the Reserves were set apart, after negotiation with and with the consent of the Indians and by the surrender of the Indian title to the rest of the land; in British Columbia by the arbitrary will of the Government alone without the consent of the Indians and in total disregard of their claims.

The attitude of the Canadian Government in regard to the Indian title has been the same in British Columbia as in the rest of Canada. In 1874 the Minister of the Interior recommended that "the Government of the Dominion should make an earnest appeal