

credit such rumours, though they are stated with confidence and with much appearance of truth. We can only venture to represent that such a course of action would be in direct conflict with the action deliberately taken and consistently pursued by the British Government for a century, arising out of a Royal Proclamation which the Indians have always claimed as the Magna Charta of their rights ; such a course of action would be in direct conflict with the action consistently followed by the Canadian Government for half a century, under which the Indians have hoped and trusted and remained at peace ; such a course of action instead of settling this long-standing question would throw it into hopeless confusion and run the risk of fanning into a flame elements of danger that now lie in a smouldering state. The question has been crying out loudly for solution for 45 years. As the years pass by it becomes more urgent and, at the same time, more difficult of solution. It ought to be brought to an issue without delay. But that issue should be creditable to the Canadian people and satisfactory to the Indians.