

inrush of settlers and the sale of land on a large scale, the question has once more become acute. And Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as Prime Minister of Canada, on his recent visit to the Pacific Coast, assured the Indians at various points that they would be protected by the Canadian Government, and that their claims would be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. And to an important deputation from the "Friends of the Indians" and the "Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada" that waited upon him in Ottawa, he said, putting the whole case in a nutshell: "The Indians make certain claims; the Government of British Columbia denies those claims; the courts exist for the express purpose of deciding such conflicting contentions; and the Government of Canada, as guardian of the Indians, will do all in its power to have the case submitted to judicial determination; for it is the part of good government to see that no section of the population should be dissatisfied." And the submission to the courts has been frustrated by the refusal of British Columbia and the constitutional difficulty of bringing a Government into court against its will. And the refusal of British Columbia remains a mystery, for it has never deigned to give a reason for its refusal. It is open to the man on the street to suspect that it knows the weakness of its case, and is afraid of the result of a judicial decision.

Thus stood the case on the advent of the present Government of Canada to power. To a deputation that waited on that Government, the then Minister of the Interior gave the assurance that the rights of the Indians would be protected. Accordingly a commissioner was appointed to treat with the Government of British Columbia on the subject. And, marvellous to relate, an arrangement was arrived at, in a few weeks, on that long-standing and very difficult question. That arrangement purported to be a