

the Indians," a copy of the opinion regarding the Nishga Petition, which at his request had been given by the Minister of Justice. In that opinion the Minister, while conceding that the claim of the Indians has sufficient foundation to justify consideration by the Courts, deals with the subject of the policy of the Government of Canada as follows:—

"I may remind you that it was the declared policy of our predecessors in office to submit to the Courts for decision the question of the aboriginal title which is the subject of this Petition and has been for some years agitated in British Columbia.

"The agreement of 24th September, 1912, between representatives of the Dominion and British Columbia, which was approved by Order-in-Council of 27th November following, appears to evince a departure from the policy of the late Government. It is recited in the preamble that it is desirable to settle all differences between the Governments of the Dominion and the Province respecting Indian lands and Indian affairs generally in British Columbia, and upon this recital the stipulations or proposals of the agreement are said to be agreed upon as a final adjustment of all matters relating to Indian affairs in the Province. The agreement, while it provides for the ascertainment of the various Indian reserves and the disposal thereof or confirmation of the titles in the manner therein provided, makes no reference to the aboriginal title, and it may be considered that it would be incompatible with the intention of the agreement that the Dominion should maintain cause of the Indians in respect of the aboriginal title, seeing that this title is ignored by the agreement and that the proposals or stipulations of the agreement are declared to have been agreed upon as a final adjustment of all matters relating to Indian affairs in the Province. I think, therefore, that the policy of the Government in relation to the matter is a preliminary question to be determined." * * *

RESOLUTIONS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

January, 1914.

At a meeting held on 23rd January, 1914, at which were reported the interviews held since the previous meeting and the opinion of the Minister of Justice, the Committee adopted the following resolutions:—

RESOLUTION No. 1.

Whereas in our judgment the present position of Indian affairs in British Columbia, which has arisen from the persistent refusal of the Government of that Province to recognize the aboriginal claims of its native Tribes, is exceedingly grave, not only involving the whole future of the twenty-five thousand Indians, but also affecting the honor and threatening the peace of our country,