

"The guaranteeing the aborigines of British Columbia the continuance of a policy as liberal as was pursued by the local Government seems little short of a mockery of their claims. If there has not been an Indian war it is not because there has been no injustice to the Indians, but because the Indians have not been sufficiently united.

"In laying the foundation of an Indian policy in that Province on the same permanent and satisfactory basis as in the other portions of the Dominion—the Government of the Dominion feel that they would not be justified in limiting their efforts to what under the strict letter of the terms of union, they were called upon to do. They feel that a great national question like this—a question involving possibly in the near future an Indian war, with all its horrors, should be approached in a very different spirit, and dealt with upon other and higher grounds.

"The policy foreshadowed in the provisions of the 13th clause of British Columbia Terms of Union is plainly altogether inadequate to satisfy the fair and reasonable demands of the Indians. To satisfy these demands, and to secure the good will of the natives, the Dominion and local Governments must look beyond the terms of that agreement—and be governed in their conduct toward the aborigines by the justice of their claims, and by the necessities of the case."

In a report presented in January, 1875, the then Minister of Justice declared that the claim of these Indians was well founded and that they were entitled to an interest in the lands of British Columbia. In that report the Minister expressed the opinion that to treat these lands as the absolute property of the Province is "an assumption which completely ignores, as applicable to the Indians of British Columbia, the honor and good faith with which the Crown has in all other cases since its sovereignty of the territories in North America dealt with their various Indian tribes."

In September, 1876, Lord Dufferin, then Governor-General of Canada, in an address delivered at Victoria, said:

"From my first arrival in Canada I have been very much pre-occupied with the condition of the Indian population in this Province. You must remember that the Indian population are not represented in Parliament and consequently that the Governor-General is bound to watch over their welfare with especial solicitude. Now, we must all admit that the condition of the Indian question in British Columbia is not satisfactory. Most unfortunately as I think there has been an initial error, ever since Sir James Douglas quitted office, in the Government of British Columbia neglecting to recognize what is known as the Indian title. In Canada this has always been done; no Government, whether provincial