

whole question permanently settled on a basis that will be generally satisfactory to all the interests concerned."

INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

On 15th April, those representing the Council of Canada and the "Friends of the Indians," presented to the Minister of Justice the following "Reasons for Supporting Nishga Petition":—

1. For more than forty years the Indians of British Columbia have been making land claims which have been denied by the local Government.

2. This well-defined issue has always caused deep-rooted and widespread trouble, and has frequently threatened the peace of the Province.

3. In 1875, the Department of Justice of Canada, in a report adopted by the Governor-General in Council, declared that the claims of the Indians of British Columbia are well founded.

4. In 1876, Lord Dufferin, acting as Governor-General in pursuance of that declaration, met the Tsimpshean Indians at Metlakahtla and assured them that their rights would be protected.

5. For four years the Petition of the Indians of the Province, asking that their claims be submitted directly to His Majesty's Privy Council, has been before the Imperial Government and the two Canadian Governments.

6. In 1910, the Department of Justice reached the conclusion that existing conditions render necessary the judicial decision desired by the Indians which conclusion was adopted by the Governor-General in Council.

7. In the same year, acting in pursuance of that conclusion, both the Department of Indian Affairs and the then Prime Minister of Canada promised the Indians that their claims would be submitted to His Majesty's Privy Council.

8. In May, 1911, in the course of a report then sent the then Government of Canada communicated the conclusion reached and adopted as above stated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and stated that it was proposed to institute proceedings in the Exchequer Court of Canada with a view to securing a decision.

9. In July, 1911, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, upon considering that report, forwarded to the Governor-General of Canada a despatch in pursuance of which the "Friends of the Indians" made to the Government of the Province proposals for settlement, which in April, 1912, were rejected.