

Accordingly on the entrance of British Columbia into the Confederation this question arose, and the Canadian Government took a definite stand in favor of the recognition of the Indian claim as may be seen from the emphatic utterances of the Governor General, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of the Interior of that period. And the Government of Canada have never departed from that position. During the late administration Sir Wilfrid Laurier told the Indians, at various points, that their claims would be submitted for judicial decision and he stated to a deputation of which we were members that the Courts existed just for such a case as this and that he would do his utmost to secure a judicial decision.

The present Government, shortly after their accession to power, took up the matter and in May last appointed a representative to visit British Columbia, investigate conditions on the spot and report. It is understood that Mr. McKenna's report is in the hands of the Government and various rumours are afloat, apparently not without some foundation, that an arrangement has been arrived at with the Government of British Columbia and that that arrangement entirely ignores the claims of the Indians. It is difficult to