

Ottawa, Canada.

August 20th., 1909.

To

The Honorable Frank Oliver

Superintendent General of Indian Affairs

OTTAWA, Canada.

Sir

In accordance with instructions received from you in April last to investigate and report upon the nature and present status of the Indian Title to certain lands known as 'Indian Lands' in Canada, with special reference to Indian Lands in British Columbia, I now have the honor to submit such report for your consideration.

I shall state my conclusions first, so that the purport and application of the evidence and argument herein set forth may the more readily be seen.

I submit:

1. That there was no intended, or authorized or actual dispossession at any time by any European Government of the Indians of North America from the lands actually occupied by them except by purchase or treaty.
2. That the British Government at no time ever authorized any Colonial Government to dispossess any nation or tribe of Indians in Canada from lands actually occupied by such nation or tribe.
3. That the lands actually possessed and occupied by the Indians of North America at the time of European discovery and colonization comprised but a very small area in comparison with the uninhabited tracts which were literally no man's land.
4. That the Indians of North America were not one indiscriminate mass of natives, but were divided into separate nations, differing as much from one another in language, customs, and general characteristics as did the European discoverers and colonists themselves - the Spanish, French, Dutch and English.
5. That the European Governments, and the Colonial Governments, officially recognized the fact that the Indians were divided into separate nations, and that they at no time considered the acts, admissions, or pledges of one nation of Indians to be binding upon or to affect the status of any other nation of Indians.