

ister of Justice and the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, submitting that—with reference to an Order-in-Council, dated 20th June, 1914, by which it was provided that the claims of the Indians of British Columbia to the lands of that province be referred to the Exchequer Court in Canada with right of appeal to the Privy Council under certain conditions—the Nishga Tribe of Indians, resident on the Naas River, had previously urged their claims independently and had proceeded so far as to petition His Majesty's Imperial Privy Council. As the Order-in-Council above referred to set forth the conditions under which there might be submission to the Courts, the Nishga Indians asked the Government to consider counter proposals, and representatives from the Tribe were sent to Ottawa to confer with the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. Ample opportunity was accorded them for discussion and the question was thoroughly debated.

The proposals which were made by the Indians and in which it is understood they are supported by certain other Tribes in British Columbia, are as follows:—

1. That when the findings of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia are known, each Tribe that may consider such findings insufficient shall have opportunity of making application for additional lands to be reserved for the use and benefit of the Tribe for reasons to be stated in such application, and every such application which cannot be dealt with by conference between the Tribe and the two Governments shall be decided by His Majesty's Imperial Minister, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in pursuance of the principle embodied in Article 13 of the "Terms of Union."

2. That in fixing compensation regard shall be had to all the terms and provisions of any Treaty made between the Crown and any Tribe of Indians in Canada.

3. That in fixing compensation regard shall also be had to all restrictions and disabilities imposed upon Indians by Provincial Laws and those imposed by Canadian regulations relating to the Fisheries.

4. That all remaining matters including an equitable method of fixing compensation shall be adjusted by enactment of the Parliament of Canada.

The Ministers state, with reference to the first proposal, that the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia is a joint commission appointed to carry out an agreement between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments with reference to Indian Reserves in British Columbia, and that when the Governments confirm the find-