

On 30th November, 1911, at Ottawa, Rev. Canon Tucker, representing the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, at an interview had with the Right Hon. R. L. Borden, K.C., Prime Minister of Canada, and the Hon. Robert Rogers, Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, spoke as follows:-

I should like, at the outset, to explain to you just what we represent. Mr. O'Meara represents "The Conference of Friends of the Indians of British Columbia," an organization of citizens, free from all ecclesiastical and political affiliations, formed for the purpose of promoting the best interests of the Indians. I have the honour to represent "The Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada," composed of representatives of all the churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, and of such organizations as the Lord's Day Alliance, The Farmers' Grange and Trades & Labour Councils. This is probably the most widely representative body in the Dominion of Canada.

Now the subject we desire to place before you is the Indian Land Question of British Columbia. That question may be stated briefly as follows:—The Indians of British Columbia make certain claims to the unsundered lands of the Province and they assert that before the land is sold or given to railways or to settlers their claim should be considered. On the other hand the Government of British Columbia say that the Indians have no claim whatever and they deal with them, in the matter of reservations and otherwise, on that basis. Here is a distinct, clear-cut issue between the two parties.

Now, the organizations which we represent do not pre-judge the case. They do not say that the Indians have or have not a claim. But they do say that the claim of the Indians, which they have consistently made for half a century, ought to be considered and disposed of in some way.