

The Indian Tribes of British Columbia were not parties to that Agreement and immediately upon knowing its provisions protested against it and thereafter repeatedly refused to be bound by its provisions and have continued to be unwilling to accept as final settlement the findings of the Royal Commission contained in the Report made to the two Governments in the month of June 1916.

In the month of November 1912 immediately after adopting the McKenna-McBride Agreement the Government of Canada gave assurance that nothing contained in the Agreement would be permitted to prevent the Indian Tribes from asserting their claims.

In pursuance of that assurance and after full consultation had with the Government of Canada upon occasion of interviews extending from the month of November 1912 to the month of April 1913 the Nishga Tribe of Indians in the month of May 1913 presented a direct and independent Petition to His Majesty's Privy Council.

In the month of September 1916 the Duke of Connaught, acting as His Majesty's Representative in Canada and in response to letter which had been addressed to him on behalf of the Nishga Tribe and the Interior Tribes, gave positive written assurances that the Petition which had been addressed to His Majesty's Privy Council would be considered by that Tribunal if the findings of the Royal Commission should not be accepted as settlement.

Governments of Canada have been advised that under Article 13 of the "Terms of Union" as interpreted and carried into effect by the McKenna-McBride Agreement the Dominion of Canada became responsible for compensating the Indian Tribes in respect of all aboriginal land and other rights that might be established by the Tribes.

By Statute Chapter 51 of the year 1920 the Parliament of Canada authorized the Governor-General in Council to carry out the McKenna-McBride Agreement by adopting the Report of the Royal Commission.

The allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia claim that the McKenna-McBride Agreement is beyond the powers of the two Govern-

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