

# MEMORIAL OF

## The Conference of Friends of the Indians of British Columbia

To

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

IN COUNCIL

May it please your Royal Highness:

I address your Royal Highness on behalf of "The Conference of Friends of the Indians of British Columbia," a non-political body of citizens of that Province specially interested in the Indian people, organized for the purpose of bringing about a just and satisfactory solution of the problem presented by existing conditions.

We desire first to request your Excellency's attention to the fact that the twenty-five thousand Indians of British Columbia regard as the charter of their rights the proclamation which was issued by King George Third in the year 1763, by which the title of the Indian tribes was recognized, and it was enacted that these tribes should be protected in the possession of their lands until the same had been purchased from them by the Crown.

On 2nd November, 1874, the then Minister of the Interior, in a letter addressed to the Government of British Columbia, said:

"A cursory glance at these documents is enough to show that the present state of the Indian land question in our territory west of the Rocky Mountains is most unsatisfactory—and that it is the occasion, not only of great discontent among the aboriginal tribes, but also of serious alarm to the white settlers.