

superior intelligence, or even the interests of civilization cannot justify us in disregarding what may be looked upon as an inherent right.

Now this is precisely what the British Government have done in their dealings with the Indians. When first the British flag was hoisted, on the Pacific Coast, by Sir Francis Drake, 300 years ago, it was all done after negotiation with the natives. Immediately after the conquest of Canada King George III issued a proclamation assuring the Indians that they would be protected in the free enjoyment of all their rights. This proclamation has been followed by repeated Acts of the British Parliament to the same effect. Indeed this has been the policy consistently pursued by Great Britain in dealing with the native races the world over.

When the Dominion Government came into being in 1867 they adopted the same policy. The Indians, over the whole of the North West, have been dealt with by negotiation and treaty and they have been granted reserves, annuities, education and other forms of compensation for the relinquishment of their claims. The question here naturally arises why have not the Indians of British Columbia been dealt with in the same way ?