

to an adequate place in its spacious areas. As the original inhabitants of the land we have special claims, apart from those which belong to us as mere human beings. No race of new-comers, even though they are white, and civilized and christian, and rich and strong, are entitled totally to disregard these claims. Furthermore, we plead the provisions of the Proclamation of King George Third in 1763, which places the Indian territory under the sovereignty and protection of the British Crown, and which forbids all loving subjects to encroach on that territory without the special sanction of the Crown. We plead the protection of the King of England. We are willing, however, to submit our claims to the highest Court in the Empire, and we agree to abide by the result." This would seem to be a reasonable plea, and to be urged in a moderate and convincing manner.

The Government of British Columbia, on the other hand, takes a position that can scarcely be said to be as reasonable or as convincing. They say frankly that the Indians have no claims that deserve to be considered or need be submitted to the courts. The Province belongs exclusively to the white men, who are justified in meting out to the Indians whatever treatment may seem good to them. They, in consequence, refuse to submit the case to the courts, and they proceed to sell the land to settlers and speculators without any regard to the claims of the Indians. This has led to widespread dissatisfaction and unrest among the Indians.

Now, what has been the attitude of the Canadian Government in regard to this Indian Land question in British Columbia? In dealing with the Indians, throughout the Northwest, the Canadian Government has frankly recognized the Indian title, and has treated with the Indians on that basis. The first plank in their policy has been to extinguish the Indian title, and to satisfy the