

1st. A claim to all surveyed and unsurveyed lands west and north of Lakes Simcoe and Conchiching, and the River Severn to Matchedash Bay, up to the boundary line of the lands surrendered to the Government in the year 1798, and following the boundary line of the lands surrendered to the Crown in 1815, to the carrying place; from thence to the Talbot River, the dividing line between Mosa and Thorah. They likewise claim all surveyed and unsurveyed lands east and north the above-named waters, till they come to the lands owned by other tribes. All the above-named they claim, with the exception of the lands on the Coldwater Road, surrendered by them to Sir Francis B. Head, in the year 1834.

They also claim the islands in Lake Simcoe, known by the following names, viz., Snake Island, Fox Island, and Georgiana Island. They likewise assert their claim to "all the islands in Lake Conchiching, with the exception of Pumpkin Island, lying conveniently to Orillia." They also claim the "Christian Island, Round Island, and Hoop Island, lying in Matchedash Bay, according to the last treaty of Captain Anderson," their late superintendent. They also claim "all the rest of the islands lying in Lakes Huron and Simcoe," in their names and tribes, because they have nothing to show the surrender, and as they received no remuneration for the same.

This part of the memorial, it will be seen, is addressed to Her Most Gracious Majesty.

2d. They request of your Excellency that there may be reserved for them the following tract of land:—

"Two townships, 12 miles square each, including Trading Lake," which they assert have never been surrendered to the Crown.

3d. In behalf of their brethren established at the Lake of Two Mountains, they represent that they owned a large tract of land in the Ottawa and adjoining districts, and that a part of these lands has been surveyed and sold to the whites, which they have not at any time ceded.

4th. The Cape Croker Indians complain respecting the title to their lands, and the loss of money due to them on the sales of their surrendered lands.

5th. The Lakes Huron and Simcoe Indians petition against the fishery law, and state that when they surrendered their lands to the Government, they did not sign over all the game and the fish, and that they think it no more than just that they should have the privilege of selling timber or stone off from their reserves.

With regard to the first point, a surrender is in the Indian department of the whole tract shown on the accompanying diagram, and coloured red. Another block, as will be seen, was purchased in 1798. A further extent was supposed (in 1815) to have been obtained in 1785. The land may also be held to be covered by the Robinson Treaty in the following words:—"From Penetanguishene to Sault Ste. Marie, and thence to Batchewananing Bay, on the northern shore of Lake Superior, together with the islands in the said lakes, opposite to the shores thereof, and inland to the height of land which separates the territory covered by the charter of the Honourable the Hudson's Bay Company from Canada, as well as all unconceded lands within the limits of Canada West, to which they have any just claim."

The Lakes Huron and Simcoe Indians, however, assert, that the tribes on the north shore had no right to cede hunting grounds, which were not occupied by themselves, but by the present petitioners. If this be so, then a portion of the territory south of the Severn River seems to be still unsurrendered.

The Executive Government, by accepting in 1856 a surrender from the Lakes Huron and Simcoe Indians of the islands in the Georgiana Bay, gives a sort of colour to their present claims.

A further doubt exists respecting the land lying between Lake Conchiching and Talbot River. No written surrender of this tract is in existence; but it appears, from the Commissioners' report in 1844, that after the surrender of the Coldwater tract in 1836, the Indians bought the 1,600 acres on which they now reside. This affords a presumption that they had previously given up their claim to the mainland on Lakes Conchiching and Simcoe, while they retained the islands. If this inference be correct, their present claim is unfounded.

Their request for two townships, of 12 miles square each, to be reserved for them round Trading Lake, is one for the consideration of your Excellency; but in my opinion it would not be for the substantial advantage of the Indians to grant it, while it would create an obstacle to the settlement of the back country. If acceded to at all, they should surrender all their land in the front in exchange for it.

In consideration of the claims pressed by the Indians of the Lake of Two Mountains, for compensation for their hunting grounds on the Ottawa River, which had been taken possession of by the white population before they were surrendered, or the Indian interest consulted in any way, the Executive Government granted to these bands, under the 14th and 15th Vict. c. 106, 45,750 acres on the River Desert. A certain number of the Algonquins have embraced the opportunity thus given to them of exchanging the sterile tract at the Lake of the Two Mountains for a fresh location, where they have formed the settlement of Maniwaki, and are beginning to apply themselves to agriculture.

With regard to the complaints of the Cape Croker tribe, a very brief explanation will show that they have no real grievance. The duplicate treaty, after being ratified by your Excellency, was returned to them; but as the acceptance by the Government of the sur-

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