

Mr. PAULL: Vancouver Island happens to be my constituency, so to speak, and that is why I am anxious to speak about it. Mr. Kelly deals with the other parts of the province. I am entrusted with the work of discussing the matter of the treaties that were entered into with the Hudson Bay Company.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: As they affect Vancouver Island?

Mr. PAULL: Yes.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Are you bringing them into the question?

Mr. PAULL: No, I am not introducing that. I thought that was what we were being asked about.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: Here is a calculation based on what was paid when that title was extinguished.

Mr. McPHERSON: It was based on one dollar a square mile. I thought Mr. Stewart was asking you whether you would be satisfied with one dollar a square mile.

Mr. PAULL: Then I understand you. The Indians in the immediate vicinity of where these treaties were made contended that they only sold a certain area of the land, and that they did not sell their aboriginal title.

Mr. McPHERSON: I think what Mr. Paull means is that while they sold a definite location, they still claimed an interest in the balance of the Province.

Mr. PAULL: Shall I read the Treaty?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: What he said was that they still held an interest in what they sold.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: That is that they maintained their sovereign rights.

WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, let us be fair. I submit that the Committee is not quite fair to us in this. Because the Hudson Bay Company gave a blanket here and there to the Indians, and thereby claimed a certain area of land, it cannot be said that that was a fair dealing at all. Surely that can be conceded. Surely no hon. gentlemen would suggest that on the basis of what the Hudson Bay Company has done in a certain portion of Vancouver Island, now in this way any Government would begin to treat with non-Treaty Indians. The idea of one dollar per square mile is impossible.

*By Hon. Mr. Barnard:*

Q. For the Indian title?—A. Yes. I think it is an insult to intelligence for any title, whether Indian or any other.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Mr. Kelly, before you get warmed up, let us come to the complaint that the Indians of British Columbia have not an opportunity of negotiating treaties on the same basis and in the same manner as others have. That was one of your complaints?—A. Quite so.

Q. Now, as a matter of fact, two sections of British Columbia were dealt with by treaty in precisely that manner?—A. By the Hudson Bay Company.

Q. By the authorities of that time?

*By Hon. Mr. Barnard:*

Q. They were not both by the Hudson Bay Company?—A. Vancouver Island was by the Hudson Bay Company.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. One was by the Crown?—A. That is the one that is brought in as a suggested basis, Vancouver Island, which was done by the Hudson Bay Company; not Treaty No. 28.

Q. I have not given utterance to the thought that that should be the basis of settlement, but supposing the question of the aboriginal title is admitted,