

Mr. McBride: We do not want to take any responsibility about that. It will be quite satisfactory to us if you prepare and hand us a memorandum of what you present and then we will send our answer in writing. We want you now to proceed and say what you have come to say to us. Before you do so, however, I may say to you gentlemen that our position is well known. You yourselves know it and the Secretary of State for the Colonies knows it. When in England I told him plainly the stand we have taken and intend still to take. He said to me, "We do not want to have trouble." I answered that we did not want there should be trouble, and I gave Mr. Harcourt clearly to understand that the policy of the Imperial Government so far as this Indian question is concerned must be one of "hands off British Columbia," and that we are very determined in the view that we take in this matter and intend to stand firmly by that view.

Mr. Wade: If that is the position you take, Mr. McBride, when we come to you in response to the desire expressed by the Imperial Minister, I think what you have just said should be taken as closing this interview and we shall be obliged to withdraw.

Mr. McBride: Oh, no, do not do that. I do not wish to be understood in that way. Notwithstanding our well known position we are ready to hear and consider what you have to say. Mr. McTavish wrote to us requesting an interview and we replied granting that interview and now we are ready to hear what you have to say.

Mr. McTavish: Mr. Premier and honourable gentlemen, *I feel that I would be extremely remiss in my duties were I not to express to you at the outset our very deep appreciation of your courtesy in extending to us so prompt an interview. We want you to know that we appreciate this very much. I also wish it to be distinctly understood that the basis of all our action and of whatever we may have to say is conciliation. I feel that no more can be said on that point.