

ment to have no one resting under a grievance. The Indians will continue to believe they have a grievance until it has been settled by the court that they have a claim or that they have no claim."

HAS CANADA DEPARTED FROM THIS RECORD?

According to the view of the Royal Commission, the present agreement is in fundamental conflict with the attitude of Canada previously taken with unvarying consistency for forty years, and is based upon the very assumption which was described by the Minister of Justice in the report of 1875.

We do not say that the Canadian Ministers so understand the agreement. On the contrary, we have been assured by the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs and the Minister of Justice that in entering into the agreement, which deals exclusively with Reserves, the Government of Canada had no intention of injuriously affecting the rights of the Indians.

However, the fact which must be faced is that the Commission appointed by the two Governments so interprets the agreement.

WITH WHOM IS THE ISSUE?

The answer of the Royal Commission is not in its application confined to the Bella Coola Indians and the Naas Indians, but extends to many other Tribes who are asserting and actively pressing the same claims. In fact the Indians of the whole Province are a solid body in taking issue with the assumption so strongly disapproved by the Minister of Justice in 1875, upon which the Commissioners now say that their whole work is being carried on.

THE ONLY SOLUTION.

The "Friends of the Indians" have always advocated as very desirable that there should be secured from the highest Tribunal of the Empire a judgment determining the rights of these Indians upon the basis of which every outstanding question between the Indians and the two Governments might be equitably and finally decided. The recent course of events, culminating in the declaration made by the Royal Commission, has most conclusively proved that to carry through this policy of justice and conciliation is the only possible solution of an increasingly serious situation.

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