

that the Government of Canada will, without hesitation, refuse to approve any such "settlement" for we are convinced that a real settlement of the Indian land question will never be brought about by any such arrangement.

At the time of our interview of May the long-standing issue between the Indian tribes and the local Government had reached an acute stage, and the constant refusal to recognize the claim of the Indians and the oft-repeated and unavailing appeals of the Indians for justice had brought about an exceedingly serious situation.

The experience of the past six months has proved that the view which we then expressed was well founded. An attempt has been made to deal with other matters in advance of dealing with the claim of the Indians, and as the result of this attempt, combined with the utterances of the Premier of British Columbia, the situation has been so far aggravated as to demand the immediate and most serious attention of the Government of Canada. We have strong reason for believing that, if the Government of Canada should now approve the arrangement regarding reserves which has been made, without first decisively dealing with the fundamental matter of the claim of the Indians, the situation will thereby be further aggravated, and that an entirely hopeless situation fraught with the gravest danger may be created.

In the judgment of Lord Dufferin, it was an "initial error" that the Province had not then made a bargain with the Indian tribes for a surrender of their claim. It seems clear to us that the only remedy, other than a judicial determination of the rights of the Indians, which can hopefully be applied to the increasingly serious situation which has arisen from that "initial error" is that a bargain should now be made with the Indians.

If the present Government of the Province, as declared by the Premier, is unwilling to apply that remedy, and if, as again and again declared, the Indians are willing to submit their claim to the "white man's court in London" and abide by the result, it seems to us that the position so taken is unanswerable, and that the determination of their rights by the highest tribunal of the Empire, which they repeatedly demand, cannot be withheld without violating the fundamental principles of British justice.

Dated at the city of Toronto the 4th day of November, 1912,

P. D. McTAVISH,  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
Chairman..