

to and amply sufficient for the requirements of each tribe. and these Indian Reserves are held by Government in trust for the exclusive use and benefit of the Indians resident thereon.

But the title of the Indians in the fee of the Public Lands or of any portion thereof has never been acknowledged by Government - but on the contrary is distinctly denied. In no case has any special agreement been made with any of the Tribes of the Mainland for the extinction of their claims of possession - but these claims have been held to have been fully satisfied by securing to each tribe, as the progress of the settlement of the country seemed to require - the use of sufficient tracts of land for their wants for agricultural and pastoral purposes.

In 1850 and 1851 shortly after the first settlement at Victoria by the Hudson Bay Company at that time grantee from the Crown of the whole of Vancouver Island with full executive powers of Government, their agent Governor Douglas made agreements with the various families of Indians then occupying the South Eastern portion of the Island for the relinquishment of their possessory claims in the district of country around Fort Victoria in