

GENEROUS OFFER MADE TO SONGHEES TRIBE

Hon. William Templeman Outlines the Situation Showing Where the Trouble Lies in Settlement of Question

(From Thursday's Daily.)

A payment of \$2,000 to each head of the forty-two families on the Songhees Indian reserve; their removal to another reserve of equal area and as good or better in quality, at the cost of the Dominion government; valuation of and payment for improvements to enable the band to erect equally good dwellings on the new reserve, or construction by the government of residences as good or better instead of paying for the improvements on the old reserve; and the funding of the balance of whatever is received for the old reserve for the benefit of the band.

This is the offer the Dominion government has placed before the Songhees Indians as an inducement to surrender their title to the present reserve, and which has been before the band for a year. Action by them has been delayed on one excuse or another, although Hon. Wm. Templeman has been steadily pressing for an answer and it is still a case of "to-morrow" with the Indians. Under the statutes governing the relations of Canada to its Indian wards it is absolutely necessary that they consent to surrender their title. They cannot be evicted.

If the Songhees remain inactive or refuse to accept the government's offer, the ultimate alternative is the amending of the Indian Act so as to give the government power to act in this or similar cases as the best interest of Indians and whites demand should be done here.

Such, in brief, is the position of the famous Songhees Reserve question, as outlined last evening by the Minister of Inland Revenue in Victoria. West, that section of the capital, which is most nearly touched by a reserve, which affects the entire city. Speaking in Semple hall to a large and deeply attentive audience, Mr. Templeman went into the history of the reserve, the law governing the matter, the attitude of the Indians towards the offer made them, and his own persistent efforts to effect a settlement.

A great part of what he said was news to the audience, and was greatly impressed by the recital of the facts and expressed its satisfaction with Mr. Templeman's explanations. The records quoted showed that the efforts made, whether under the act or the present government, had been rendered abortive by the Indians themselves, who have steadfastly clung to their homes and refused to consider any proposals.

There is before the band now an offer, the generosity of which the audience last night expressed its sense of, which has been awaiting their action for a year or more, but no meeting has yet been held by the band to consider it. Repeated requests that a meeting be held have been met with characteristic Indian procrastination. The alternative, which will have to be considered if the band does not accept the offer or takes no action on it, was placed before the meeting by Mr. Templeman, and the audience, under the influence of the minister's remarks, expressed their comments afterwards, was that the city's member has done more than any other man to bring about the result so much desired and that the blame for failure is not to be laid at his door.

The chairman, Major A. W. Currie, voiced the feeling of the meeting when he said that after the recital the audience listened to no one could accuse the minister of neglecting Victoria's interests.

Not a Political Issue.

"The text I have taken for my remarks to-night is: 'What I know of the Songhees reserve,'" said Mr. Templeman, in opening. "It is not an issue in this campaign. It is not a political question at all, and should not be, but within the last year an attempt has been made to make it an issue. I need not name the papers that have indulged in such questionable and petty attacks on me for my many alleged shortcomings as a member of Victoria, and particularly which interests this western portion of the city—because the Songhees have not yet been removed from the reserve."

"It is not a political question and I am not going to make it one (hear, hear), but I refuse to permit any Conservative journal or politician to place on my shoulders the blame for the failure to right to be to blame me and condemn me for taking no interest when I have taken a great and continuous interest and used all my efforts to effect a settlement of this long-pending question."

"I am here to give you some history and perhaps some history you may not already possess. I know there is in the mind of the people a belief that by some means or other the Dominion or provincial governments or the city council can walk over to the reserve and put these Indians off without any more as by-yonder leave. There seems to be an impression that the Indians have no rights the white man is bound to respect. Now I want to impress on the people of Victoria West and throughout them, on the whole city the utter and absolute fallacy of that impression. I will give you a whole lot of hard facts, and every statement I give you and quotation from the large file of papers and correspondence I have with me will be absolutely accurate and true."

"I know this is a local question, affecting your civic interests. There is

nothing more interesting to Victoria West; in fact, no local question interesting the whole city more than that of the Songhees and the possibility of their removal to another reserve."

What the Law Demands. "I first want to give you the law, as laid down in the Indian Act. Dealing with the matter of the surrender of reserves to His Majesty in trust for the Indians, section 38 of the act says:

"No reserve or portion of a reserve shall be sold, alienated or leased until it has been released or surrendered to the crown for the purposes of this act, except that in the case of aged, sick and infirm Indians and widows and children left without a guardian, or in the cases of Indians engaged in the practice of any one of the learned professions, or in teaching schools, or in pursuing trade which interferes with their cultivating land on the reserve, the superintendent-general shall have the power to lease, for their support and relief, the lands to which they are entitled."

"Section 39 says: 'No release or surrender of a reserve, or portion of a reserve, held for the use of the Indians of any band, or of any individual Indian, shall be valid or binding, except on the following conditions:—The release or surrender shall be assented to by a majority of the male members of the band, of the full age of 21 years, at a meeting or council thereof summoned for that purpose, according to the rules of the band, and held in the presence of the superintendent-general or of some officer duly authorized to attend such council unless he habitually resides on or near and is interested in the reserve in question.'"

"And in section 40 it is declared that no release or surrender of any reserve or portion of a reserve shall be valid or made to anyone other than His Majesty. There is only one way to get rid of a reserve and that is by a majority vote to surrender it to the government."

Early History of Reserve.

"I do not think many people know the history of the Songhees. Some of the old residents of Victoria will be familiar with the early history of the Songhees tribe, I believe, when the Hudson's Bay Company came here forty years ago, occupied the whole of the southern portion of the Island, all Spanish peninsula and probably all east and west of where Victoria stands. Their village was near Cadboro Bay. They were brought in by Sir James Douglas and put on the reserve, where they now are. Some time in 1861, or thereabouts, an agreement was made with the Indians, by which they transferred to the company all that portion of this country, other than what is now the reserve, and the company, in return, agreed to give them a reserve of 1,000 acres, which they have since received."

"The condition of our understanding of this sale is this, that our village sites and enclosed fields are to be kept for our own use, for the use of our children, and for those who may follow after us; and the land shall be properly surveyed hereafter. It is understood, however, that the land itself, with these small exceptions, becomes the property of the Hudson's Bay Company, by which they transferred to the company all that portion of this country, other than what is now the reserve, and the company, in return, agreed to give them a reserve of 1,000 acres, which they have since received."

"Now the land that was excluded and that was not transferred, is what is now known and occupied as the Songhees reserve. You will see by this that as a matter of fact the Songhees were never given the reserve; they had it. As I want you to appreciate the efforts that have been made, the difficulties with which I desire to give you a brief review of the matter, efforts made to induce them to remove, as summarized from the records of the Indian department. This agreement was made in 1850."

Efforts Made to Remove Indians.

"In 1859 efforts were made to remove the Songhees from the reserve at Victoria, which by that time had grown into a town of considerable importance, the land included in the reserve having greatly increased in value, being much desired for building sites and for other purposes on account of its frontage on the harbor."

"The legislative council of Vancouver Island presented an address to Sir James Douglas, then commissioned by the Imperial government as governor of the colony, inquiring whether the government had power to remove the Indians from this reserve, and suggesting that the removal of the Indians should be held under reservation should be sold and the proceeds devoted to the improvement of the town and harbor of Victoria."

"The governor was in the negative, and to the effect that, as a solemn engagement had been entered into by himself as the agent of the Hudson's Bay Company on behalf of the crown, setting aside this reserve, especially for the use and benefit of the Indians, it would be unjust and impolitic to remove them summarily, but that he intended to lease portions of the reserve that apply the revenue obtainable therefrom for the benefit of the tribe."

"From 1859 down to the present time several attempts have been made to remove the Songhees from the present reserve, with comparatively slight success."

Question Revived.

"In 1873 Indian Commissioner Powell revived the question of removal and was instructed to take up this matter, and was informed that the superintendent-general would be prepared to con-

sider carefully any scheme he might submit to him. Mr. Powell, who stated that a majority of the Indians had agreed to move to Cadboro Bay, their ancient camping grounds, provided suitable lands could be secured for them at that place. Correspondence with this view resulted in the Hudson's Bay Company agreeing to sell the property desired by Mr. Powell for the Indians and containing 1,125 acres, for the sum of \$50,000. Mr. Powell recommended the acceptance of this offer, especially in view of the fact that an offer of \$60,000 had been received from one Mr. P. C. Dunsmuir for the Songhees reserve. It was, however, rejected, that the amount offered for the reserve was not sufficient."

"In 1884 instructions were issued to Messrs. Powell and O'Reilly, the latter being the Indian reserve commissioner, to confer together and agree on what terms a satisfactory location could be purchased for the Indians of the Songhees and Esquimalt reserves, and were informed that the site to be chosen was to contain from 500 to 1,000 acres, and was not to be less than 20 miles from Victoria."

Report of Commissioners. "A report was received from Messrs. Powell and O'Reilly on the 10th April, 1888, recommending the purchase of two lots of land in the Metcheson district, in the city of Victoria, by water 8 or 9 miles from Victoria by water and 15 or 16 by land. These two lots together totalled 1,635 acres. Purchase of these lots was recommended, but the Indian superintendent-general reported against their purchase until a sale had been made of the Esquimalt and Songhees reserves, or until the consent of the Indians to sale had been obtained. This report was concurred in by the then minister, Sir John A. Macdonald."

"The correspondence with reference to the removal of the Indians to the Metcheson district was continued up to August, 1888, but led to little further being done in the meantime an offer was made for the Songhees reserve by Mr. R. Dunsmuir, acting for the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company. The price offered by the company was \$80,000 for the whole reserve, or \$20,000 for one half of it. Mr. Dunsmuir was authorized to negotiate with the Indians for the sale of the reserve, but failed to secure their consent to its sale."

"Between the years 1887 and 1890 considerable correspondence took place between the department, Mr. Dunsmuir and also the provincial government (whose claim to a reversion to the lands had been advanced), with the result, however, that the settlement of this matter seemed to be about as far off as ever. Several interviews had been held with the Indians, but they were not prepared to give their consent to sale."

"It was during the period above mentioned that the request of the city of Victoria to have the Indians removed and the reserve conveyed to the corporation, upon certain conditions, formed part of the correspondence in the negotiations for a settlement of this question."

"The Indian superintendent at Victoria was informed on 17th September, 1891, that if the reserve were sold to the city none of the money derivable therefrom would be used for the improvement of Victoria harbor, as had been suggested, but all should be utilized for the benefit of the Indians."

Another Offer Made. "On the 26th August, 1891, a telegram was received from the Vancouver Island and Land Investment Company offering \$350,000 for the reserve and to deed the same to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company. Following this offer a meeting of the Indians was held to consider the question of surrender upon terms as to desirable location, building, etc., and investment of the balance of funds for their benefit. This looks to me an extremely large sum and more than could be got to-day, and it seems to me it could not have been a bolder offer than that."

In 1893 the superintendent reported he had interviewed the Indians several times, but that they declined to surrender."

On the 9th March, 1895, the deputy clerk of the executive council of British Columbia forwarded an approved minute expressing the views of the government as to the best method of effecting a settlement of the question of the removal of the Songhees tribe from their reserve to a suitable locality, and after stating claim of the province to the reserve, he intimated that the Songhees Indians would be willing to treat for removal to another location on the following basis, namely:—The purchase of 946 acres, more or less, in the Metcheson district; payment of three-fifths of the value of the improvements on the reserve after valuation and removal in cash, the balance to be used for the purchase and delivery of lumber on the new reserve; that the funds at that time at the credit of the band should be utilized for the purchase of live stock, implements, the erection of a school, etc."

"In the case of several Indians who had shown themselves to be thrifty by steady labor at a trade in the city a suitable lot of money should be obtained for each of them in the neighborhood of Rock Bay, the Dominion government to pay the taxes, and that provision should be made for the removal of the Indian dead from the present reserve."

"The provincial government was to bear the whole cost attendant on the removal of the said Indians with the exception of the taxes and to provide a new reserve in consideration of the release of the present Songhees reserve to the province. This arrangement was not accepted."

Commissioner Suggested. "On the 31st January, 1896, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia forwarded an approved report of a committee of his executive council embodying a resolution of the legislature of British Columbia, requesting that the question of the removal of the Songhees Indians should be referred to a special commission of three commissioners, one to be appointed by the Dominion government, one by the Lieut-

THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH

SEEM TO BE NATURE'S PROVISION FOR KEEPING MAN HEALTHY AND WARDING OFF DISEASE.

Cereals, vegetables and meat supply the elements most necessary for man's nourishment. Yet fruit, though it has very little food value—has proved to be absolutely necessary for perfect health.

Careful investigation has shown that all the common fruits act on the Liver, Kidneys, Bowels and Skin. These are the organs that rid the body of dead tissue and waste products, and the fruit juices stir them up to more vigorous action, thus keeping the whole body clean and healthy."

But few people eat enough fruit. Realizing this, after several years of experiment, a prominent Canadian physician succeeded in combining the juices of apples, oranges, figs and prunes in such a way that the medicinal action is many times multiplied. He added to this combination a tablet called "Fruit-a-tives." They are really Nature's cure for Constipation, Indigestion, Biliousness and Stomach Troubles. They are pure, and are sold in prompt and effective. Sold by dealers at 50c. a box—6 boxes for \$2.50—trial size box 25c. Fruit-a-tives, Limited, Ottawa.

tenant-Governor and the two so appointed to choose a third, and in the event of the two so chosen being unable to agree upon a third, some member of the Supreme court of British Columbia to be the third commissioner. This was agreed to by the Dominion government, and on the 1st April, 1896, for the purpose of the proposition without prejudice to the claims of the Dominion government as to all other reserves in the province of British Columbia, and that the title of the land which may be occupied as a reserve for the Songhees Indians in lieu of their present reserve be conveyed in fee to the Dominion government, as the trustee of the Indians. Mr. Peter O'Reilly, Indian reserve commissioner, was named as the commissioner for the Dominion.

"The principal difficulty of arriving at an agreement as to the points to be submitted arose from the objection of the provincial government to accept a provision for compensating the Indians for the difference in value between the present reserve and the new reserve which might be set apart for them. The provincial government intimated in effect that the new reserve should be taken up a few miles from the old one. The proposition was not acceptable to the Dominion government."

Proposals by Dominion.

"Up to June, 1896, these propositions had been entirely to a Conservative government. In 1897 the Hon. Mr. Turner, the premier of British Columbia, visited Ottawa and discussed with the Hon. Mr. Sifton, then superintendent-general of Indian affairs, the question of the removal of the Songhees Indians from their reserve. This discussion two proposals were made by the Dominion government; the first of which is not relevant and the second that the local government should agree to the removal of the Songhees Indians from their reserve to a suitable locality, and after stating claim of the province to the reserve, he intimated that the Songhees Indians would be willing to treat for removal to another location on the following basis, namely:—The purchase of 946 acres, more or less, in the Metcheson district; payment of three-fifths of the value of the improvements on the reserve after valuation and removal in cash, the balance to be used for the purchase and delivery of lumber on the new reserve; that the funds at that time at the credit of the band should be utilized for the purchase of live stock, implements, the erection of a school, etc."

"In the case of several Indians who had shown themselves to be thrifty by steady labor at a trade in the city a suitable lot of money should be obtained for each of them in the neighborhood of Rock Bay, the Dominion government to pay the taxes, and that provision should be made for the removal of the Indian dead from the present reserve."

"The provincial government was to bear the whole cost attendant on the removal of the said Indians with the exception of the taxes and to provide a new reserve in consideration of the release of the present Songhees reserve to the province. This arrangement was not accepted."

Commissioner Suggested. "On the 31st January, 1896, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia forwarded an approved report of a committee of his executive council embodying a resolution of the legislature of British Columbia, requesting that the question of the removal of the Songhees Indians should be referred to a special commission of three commissioners, one to be appointed by the Dominion government, one by the Lieut-

tenant-Governor and the two so appointed to choose a third, and in the event of the two so chosen being unable to agree upon a third, some member of the Supreme court of British Columbia to be the third commissioner. This was agreed to by the Dominion government, and on the 1st April, 1896, for the purpose of the proposition without prejudice to the claims of the Dominion government as to all other reserves in the province of British Columbia, and that the title of the land which may be occupied as a reserve for the Songhees Indians in lieu of their present reserve be conveyed in fee to the Dominion government, as the trustee of the Indians. Mr. Peter O'Reilly, Indian reserve commissioner, was named as the commissioner for the Dominion."

"The principal difficulty of arriving at an agreement as to the points to be submitted arose from the objection of the provincial government to accept a provision for compensating the Indians for the difference in value between the present reserve and the new reserve which might be set apart for them. The provincial government intimated in effect that the new reserve should be taken up a few miles from the old one. The proposition was not acceptable to the Dominion government."

Proposals by Dominion. "Up to June, 1896, these propositions had been entirely to a Conservative government. In 1897 the Hon. Mr. Turner, the premier of British Columbia, visited Ottawa and discussed with the Hon. Mr. Sifton, then superintendent-general of Indian affairs, the question of the removal of the Songhees Indians from their reserve. This discussion two proposals were made by the Dominion government; the first of which is not relevant and the second that the local government should agree to the removal of the Songhees Indians from their reserve to a suitable locality, and after stating claim of the province to the reserve, he intimated that the Songhees Indians would be willing to treat for removal to another location on the following basis, namely:—The purchase of 946 acres, more or less, in the Metcheson district; payment of three-fifths of the value of the improvements on the reserve after valuation and removal in cash, the balance to be used for the purchase and delivery of lumber on the new reserve; that the funds at that time at the credit of the band should be utilized for the purchase of live stock, implements, the erection of a school, etc."

"In the case of several Indians who had shown themselves to be thrifty by steady labor at a trade in the city a suitable lot of money should be obtained for each of them in the neighborhood of Rock Bay, the Dominion government to pay the taxes, and that provision should be made for the removal of the Indian dead from the present reserve."

"The provincial government was to bear the whole cost attendant on the removal of the said Indians with the exception of the taxes and to provide a new reserve in consideration of the release of the present Songhees reserve to the province. This arrangement was not accepted."

Commissioner Suggested. "On the 31st January, 1896, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia forwarded an approved report of a committee of his executive council embodying a resolution of the legislature of British Columbia, requesting that the question of the removal of the Songhees Indians should be referred to a special commission of three commissioners, one to be appointed by the Dominion government, one by the Lieut-

tenant-Governor and the two so appointed to choose a third, and in the event of the two so chosen being unable to agree upon a third, some member of the Supreme court of British Columbia to be the third commissioner. This was agreed to by the Dominion government, and on the 1st April, 1896, for the purpose of the proposition without prejudice to the claims of the Dominion government as to all other reserves in the province of British Columbia, and that the title of the land which may be occupied as a reserve for the Songhees Indians in lieu of their present reserve be conveyed in fee to the Dominion government, as the trustee of the Indians. Mr. Peter O'Reilly, Indian reserve commissioner, was named as the commissioner for the Dominion."

tenant of Indian affairs, Mr. Pedley, cannot put here, I feel that the Indians were dealt with directly by an officer of the department it might lead to more success. In order to leave the department unimpaired in its negotiations with Mr. Pedley, I am with the local government to secure a waiver of any claim it might set up to a reversionary interest in the lands when no longer used for Indian purposes. In September, 1906, Premier McBride gave an understanding that the province would not immediately press its claim in this case, but that its reversionary interests, if any, would attach to the proceeds of any sale, and he dealt with the matter in the same way and for the same time as if the lands had remained a reserve. His government also agreed to the deduction from their reversionary claim of the total expense of removing the Indians and placing them on a new reserve. Premier McBride's letters show that at that time the provincial government were very desirous of trying to help Mr. Pedley to obtain a settlement."

Mr. Pedley met Chief Cooper and was informed that owing to the many attempts made to settle with them without material result, the Indians were tired of the whole business and did not care to reopen the matter. At his request, however, a meeting was held on October 6th, when, after much discussion, Mr. Pedley made this proposition:

"The Indians will be paid at the time of the surrender \$10,000 in cash, and \$5,000 cash upon being settled on the new reserve."

"The owners of the improvements on the present reserve will be paid for these in cash, or will be given in their place improvements on the new reserve, as the Indians may desire."

"A new reserve will be provided before removal from the present one."

"The cost of removal of the Indians from the present reserve will be paid for as well as any permanent band improvements on the new reserve."

"The interest on the band fund remaining in the hands of the government after deducting the amounts necessary to carry out this proposition will be paid to the Indians annually, or funded for their benefit."

Offer is Amended.

"At this meeting the Indians declined to express an opinion upon the merits of the proposition, but intimated their intention of talking it over among themselves and meeting Mr. Pedley one week later, when they would communicate their views. He met the Indians on the 13th of October, a large majority of the voting members of the band were present."

"After considerable discussion he amended his original offer, agreeing to pay \$10,000 in cash upon surrender being given, \$15,000 in cash or ten days afterwards, \$5,000 on settlement of the new reserve, to pay the cost of removal, provide a new reserve and set aside a fund of \$10,000 to be spent for the purchase of implements, boats, tools, horses, cattle, and other necessities of the applicants upon requisition to and certificate by the agent or superintendent, and to pay semi-annual interest on balance remaining to the credit of the band, and further agreed that if any member entitled to share in the distribution wished to remain in the city his share could be used as he saw fit in providing himself with a new home, but he would still retain his interest in the band property."

"When Mr. Pedley made this amended offer to the band there were some at least who appeared to be willing to accept, but the majority were unwilling. The chief intimated that the band did not wish to sell and would not accept any offer. He met the Indians again on the 20th October at their request and heard from them what they were prepared to accept as settlement of this question. They intimated they were willing to take \$1,000 per family on a basis of 42 families and a reserve at Cadboro Bay. This proposition meant an additional cash payment of \$2,000 over his previous offer, and to this he agreed, the money to be distributed as indicated before, with the exception that the extra \$2,000 was to be paid on the basis of a new reserve."

"Mr. Pedley took the chief and two others to see a property adjoining the Hudson's Bay Co. land at Cadboro Bay and the chief to see a property at Port Alberni. Neither would be acceptable to the Indians. Mr. Pedley applied to Chief Commissioner Chipman, of the Hudson's Bay Company, in regard to the purchase of the property at Port Alberni for sale and if it was it would be at something like \$1,000 an acre. I wrote Lord Strathcona and he replied that the property had been offered to the Hudson's Bay Co. and was not prepared to sell their land, even for an Indian reserve. Since then, I believe, a large portion has been sold to real estate speculators at a high price."

"While it was desirable to get the Indians off it would not be desirable to put them at Cadboro Bay, which is a beautiful suburb of Victoria, therefore it was possible to sell it, but the proposal at that time and this close approach to a settlement failed. This is the conclusion of the efforts made by Mr. Pedley to settle the Songhees question."

Made Earnest Effort.

"As an earnest of the good faith of the government I may tell you that on Oct. 17, 1906, an order-in-council was passed authorizing the government to spend \$10,000 to settle this question and that sum was at Mr. Pedley's credit here while he was negotiating."

"At this point I tried my hand, with about as much success as Mr. Pedley, and others who tried. I might here mention that at the time of his visit and after many people criticized him for not having enlisted the co-operation of local friends, particularly as he should have obtained the influence of H. Dallas Helmcken, a Conservative and a friend of the Indians, through whom he would have met with more success. I discussed that I should enlist the good services of my friend, Mr. Helmcken, and after conferences and correspondence he promised me all the assistance he could in inducing the Songhees to accept any reasonable and fair terms. During my visit here a year ago, I had a conference with the band in Mr. Helmcken's office, and discussed the terms offered by Mr. Pedley. They said they wanted better terms than Mr. Pedley's. I promised to consult my colleagues and on my return to Ottawa, I wrote on Nov. 28, 1907, to Mr. Helmcken. I have here a large file of

correspondence with Mr. Helmcken, but not having his consent I am unable to read any of his letters. I may say, however, that he kept me very fully informed of the feeling of citizens, the attitude of the Indians and every detail relating to this matter."

An Amended Offer.

"The offer I made the Songhees band, through him, was to pay them \$13,000, on their agreeing to surrender, about \$300 per family, procure a new reserve, bear the cost of their removal on my pay for improvements, or instead of paying for these government to build residences for each family as good as, or better than, their present homes. On settlement on the new reserve each family would be paid, in addition, \$1,200. The offer of the year before was \$32,000 cash, \$10,000 for implements and \$10,000 estimated value of improvements, so that my offer was better by \$13,000. The balance of the money obtained by the government would be used in paying for the new reserve, what was over being funded for the benefit of the band."

"Under date of December 10th, I learned from Mr. Helmcken that at a meeting of the band, eighteen being present, the chief said the feeling was there should be no further negotiation. That has been the character of the negotiations ever since. In writing to me Mr. Helmcken pointed out the objections of the Indians, their reluctance to remove, the absolute impossibility of their getting together to give an answer and the danger of spoiling the work we had done by too much hurry."

"I suggested I could give better terms if that was any further inducement and on December 20th I increased the offer of the amount to be paid each family to \$2,000, \$300 on their agreeing to surrender the old reserve and \$1,700 on settlement on the new one. The Indian Act gives us power to pay the Indians fifty per cent. of what their reserve will bring, and in agreeing to say them \$54,000 I thought it as far as the value of the reserve would justify me in going."

"That is the offer as it stands to-day, neither accepted nor refused by the band, and from that time to this—as I have a mass of correspondence here to show—which would be much more easy to understand if I had Mr. Helmcken's permission to read some of his letters—the band has never met legally to take this matter into its consideration. They have been many very reasonable and fair and proper excuses given for this delay; there have been many reasons given which appear to me childish in the extreme. I must repeat, however, we are dealing with Indians, and sometimes it is not always wise to judge them by the same standards as ourselves."

"I want to read one letter I wrote Mr. Helmcken—you will find it in the context, but as I told you he kept me thoroughly informed on all phases of the matter—which opens thus:

"I have read the item in the Colonist of the 15th inst. It is a very temperate article and will do no good; but no living person can stop Lugin's mouth or give him ordinary common-sense. I imagine he does not want the matter settled."

"At the same time the mere fact that such an article will have a good many sympathizers should be proof to you that the reserve question is becoming a dangerous one. I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I are acting in the interest of what they want, while I am at present getting the censure of meddlers and busy bodies for the long delay in coming to terms, it will be your turn later if you fail."

"I have no doubt, insofar as you are concerned, it will be settled very soon if you can bring it about; but I am afraid the Indians may take too long to make up their minds one way or the other. There is not, you say, any politics in this matter. I have certainly never thought there was, and I do not know how there can be. You and I