

"In thus seeking to realize what is highest and best for our people, we have encountered a very serious difficulty in the attitude which has been assumed by the Government of British Columbia. That Government has neglected and refused to recognize our claims, and for many years has been selling over our heads large tracts of our lands. We claim that every such transaction entered into in respect of any part of these lands under the assumed authority of the Provincial Land Act has been entered into in violation of the Proclamation above mentioned. These transactions have been entered into notwithstanding our protests, oral and written, presented to the Government of British Columbia, surveyors employed by that Government, and intending purchasers."

In March, 1913, after preliminary interviews had with the Acting Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs (the Minister himself being absent on account of illness) and the Minister of Justice, the Representative of the "Friends of the Indians" had an interview with the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Justice, the main result of which was soon afterwards stated in a memorandum prepared for the Minister of Justice, as follows:—

"In the course of an interview had on 27th March last with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice the last named Minister made a statement outlining the main points of the situation, by which in our judgment it was made perfectly clear that the only feasible method of securing a judicial determination of the rights of the Indians was that of bringing their claims directly before His Majesty's Privy Council."

POLICY OF COUNCIL OF CANADA.

It being expected that the Government of Canada would soon take definite action in the direction indicated by the interview last mentioned, and the two Ministers named having expressed willingness to more fully discuss the subject with that end in view, the Indian Affairs Committee of the Council of Canada on 31st March arranged accordingly.

At the same time for the purpose of clearly setting forth the action from time to time taken by the Council of Canada, and the grounds of that action, there was prepared and placed in the hands of the Canadian Ministers a memorandum from which the following particulars are taken.

At the annual meeting of the Council, held on 23rd September, 1910, the following resolution was passed:—

"In view of the national importance of securing full justice for the native race in all parts of Canada, this Council, while not expressing an opinion upon the merits of the claims now being made by the Indian tribes of British Columbia, expresses its sympathy with the aims of the Conference of Friends of the Indians of British