

POLICY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The policy of the Presbyterian Church is shown principally by the fact that from the beginning, through the Council of Canada and members of the Indian Affairs Committee, that Church has taken an active part in our efforts.

Upon occasion of last General-Assembly a memorial of the Indian Affairs Committee reporting progress and asking for the help of the Assembly was presented. In response the Assembly referred the matter to the Board of Home Missions and Social Service with full power to act.

POLICY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The general remarks above made regarding the Presbyterian Church apply equally to the Church of England.

In the year 1914 the Committee on Moral and Social Reform adopted the following statement:—

"For forty years the Indians of British Columbia have made certain claims in regard to the land of their fathers, by reason of their being the original inhabitants of the country, and in virtue of a proclamation of King George III.; and for forty years those claims have remained unheeded. The very existence of such claims has had an injurious effect on the condition of the Indians, and on the development of the Province. It is satisfactory to know that steps are now being taken to settle this long-standing difficulty. It is not too much to expect, in justice to the powers that be, that, in the settlement of this troublesome question, due regard shall be had to the future of the Indians, the honor of the country, and the eternal principles of justice and equity."

This subject has not yet been dealt with by the General Synod, having been at last meeting crowded out by business of special urgency which occupied most of the time available.

POLICY OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH.

The general remarks above made regarding the Presbyterian Church apply also to the Baptist Church.

The Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec, upon occasion of meeting held at London on 19th October last, adopted the following resolution:—

"This Convention desires to express its warm appreciation of the honorable way in which Canada in general has recognized and adjusted the aboriginal land claims of the native races. We at the same time regret that British Columbia is an unhappy exception and that the Government denies the existence of any such rights and refuses the reasonable request of the Indians that the question be referred to the Judicial Committee of His Majesty's Privy Council for decision. We therefore urge our people to support by their influence and contributions The Social Service Council in its efforts to induce the Government of Canada to do its utmost to secure the Reference to the Privy Council, that a just and permanently satisfactory settlement of the very serious question may be reached."

CRITICISMS ANSWERED.

Recently there have been brought forward against the policy of the Social Service Council three criticisms which it is important to answer with some fulness

1. It is alleged that those who are taking an active part in the movement are engaged in promoting a harmful agitation amongst the Indians of British Columbia. This criticism is wholly without foundation and is one of the political devices by which members of the Government of British Columbia