

difficulties among a large population of uncivilized Indians who at present profess to have good hearts for the White people, and can be kept a peaceful and loyal community with comparatively little expense and the exercise of ordinary prudence and fair dealing.

There are ten thousand Indians on the Coast who have not a white settler amongst them. On the West Coast of Vancouver Island alone, peopled by nearly if not quite 4,000 Ahts, there is not a single Magistrate nor Government official of any kind.

If the Settlement at Alberni be excepted, also the two R. C. Missionaries and two white traders, there is not a civilized inhabitant west of Barclay Sound.

The Indians are all heathens and live in the exercise of their own customs; and there is not a foot of land in this large extent of territory that is not owned or claimed in accordance with intertribal customs and recognition.

If a Commissioner were to go among them and change this system and tell the Indians what they were to have

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