

The Right Honorable the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs states that as Lord Granville had informed Your Excellency that he was not prepared to advise such submission, he did not consider any action on the despatch necessary.

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, however, having had his attention called to the subject by Your Excellency, is of opinion :

1. It is extremely inexpedient to deal with the Indian bands in the Dominion (except those inhabiting the territories acquired from the Hudson's Bay Company) as being in any way separate nations. They are governed by Canadian statutes, and for any wrongs or grievances have the right of recourse to the legal tribunals of the country as fully and readily as their white fellow subjects, which right they do not hesitate to exercise.

2. As Indians are exceedingly persistent in asserting their real or supposed rights, if it were once known that this application had been granted, there would be no end of similar demands by other bands, a refusal of which would cause much discontent. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to make another tribe understand why it should not receive the same consideration as the Six Nation Indians and great consequent jealousies and heart-burnings would ensue.

3. Should the Six Nation be dissatisfied with the judgment of a Canadian court, they have the right to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, according to the practice of that court.

4. As the claim of the Six Nations rests on legal considerations and affects the title to land, it can more properly be determined by a court of law than by arbitration, and they are well able to bear the expense of the necessary litigation which need not be more costly than a reference and would be much more satisfactory.

5. The introduction of a new practice of submitting Indian claims in the first instance to the Judicial Committee would operate as a complete change in the manner in which the Indian races have hitherto been dealt with and would establish a distinction between them and the other inhabitants of Canada. This is very objectionable, as the great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit for the change.

6. The present claim of the Six Nations has no merits and does not deserve any exceptional consideration.

The Committee concurring in the above recommendation, submit the same for Your Excellency's information.

JOHN J. MCGEE, *Clerk Privy Council.*

To the Right Hon. the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.