

and taken their livelihood from them. We have decimated them with our diseases and our fire water, and degraded them with our vices. We owe it to them to do all in our power to help them, and it is well within our power to do so effectually. And in this, the one object we should have in view is to raise them to the status of citizenship. For this purpose we have splendid instruments in our hands in the Reserves, the complete system of Boarding, Residential and Industrial Schools, and the Indian Fund. Now, in the nature of things, Governments move only as they are urged on by public opinion. This newly-formed Association can arouse and educate public opinion to support the Government in any effort they may make for the solution of the Indian problem.

Then there is the Indian Land Question in British Columbia. As this is a problem of immediate and urgent importance, it calls for a somewhat fuller and more detailed treatment.

At the outset it may be said that there are twenty-five thousand Indians in British Columbia, and that they are, especially in the North, among the most intelligent, self-reliant and progressive Indians in the Dominion. Many of them now are fully qualified to become citizens, but owing to the special laws by which they are governed, it is almost impossible for them to do so. We have christianized them in our churches and educated them in our mission schools. It is only reasonable to expect that they should think and desire to act for themselves. They are banded together in an Indian Association, so that it is possible to ascertain their desires and hopes.

Now they say: "We are the original inhabitants of this country. From time immemorial our fathers have hunted in its valleys and fished in its streams, and their remains have been laid to rest on all its hillsides. We and our children have a right