

"Indians from enjoying the rights of recording or pre-empting lands, except by consent of the Lieutenant-Governor, the undersigned feels that he cannot do other-wise than advise that the Act in question is objection-able as tending to deal with lands which are assumed to be the absolute property of the Province, an assumption which completely ignores, as applicable to the Indians of British Columbia, the honor and good faith with which the Crown has in all other cases since its sovereignty of the territories in North America dealt with their various Indian Tribes.

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"There is not a shadow of doubt that from the earliest times England has always felt it imperative to meet the Indians in Council and to obtain surrender of tracts of Canada, as from time to time such were required for the purpose of settlement."

10. In the year 1876 Lord Dufferin Governor-General of Canada made at Victoria a famous speech in the course of which he declared that the Indian policy of British Columbia was an "initial error" and warned the people of the Province that to persist in refusing to recognize Indian title might bring upon them grave consequences.

11. In course of Report above mentioned the Minister of Justice declared that the title of the Indian Tribes is an interest in the lands of the Province of British Columbia under Section 109 of the British North America Act. This view of the Minister of Justice has been confirmed by the various Judgments delivered by the Judicial Committee of His Majesty's Privy Council in Canadian cases relating to Indian title. The words of Report of the Minister of Justice dealing with this particular subject are the