

submit themselves unto the jurisdiction and government of the English in Massachusetts, as the records do declare. Besides the care taken as before for their government the General Court of Massachusetts hath bounded, stated and settled several townships and plantations of land unto these praying Indians of which we shall speak hereafter more particularly. (This is probably the first instance of the modern system of definitely bounded Indian Reserves.) Some of these villages are of larger, some of ~~smaller~~ lesser dimensions according to their numbers, and as there may be occasion the Court will grant more villages to the Indians. (Note the similarity of this procedure with that adopted by Sir James Douglas in British Columbia. See p ) The reasons inducing to this are: First to prevent differences and contention among the English and Indians in future times as to the propriety of the land: Second to secure unto them and their posterity (This is practically a grant in fee) places of habitation, this being a provision in all grants that they shall not sell or alienate any part of those lands to any Englishman without the General Court's consent. (Here we find the beginning of and reason for the policy ever since maintained of restricting the right of Englishmen to buy - not restricting the right of the Indians to sell - the lands occupied by the Indians) For the Indians being poor as well as improvident are very prone to sell their land to the English, and leave themselves destitute. If any should object that it is not necessary that the English should grant these lands forasmuch as it was all their entire native country and propriety before the English came to ~~the American~~ America, the answer is ready: First that the English claim right to their land by Patent from our King: Secondly, the English had the grant of most of the land within this jurisdiction by purchase or donation from the ~~English~~ Indian Sachems and Sagamores which were actually in possession when the English came over."

This is the first recorded policy of an English Colony toward the Indians; and it contains all the essentials of the Canadian policy to-day. It was considerably more magnanimous than the policy adopted by the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, because the Puritan Colony found only the merest remnant of Indians in the lands colonized, and so were not under any special fear or apprehension compelling them to a generous recognition of ancient Indian rights. Whereas in British Columbia the whites for many years numbered but a few thousand among fifty thousand Indians, and fears were officially expressed on many occasions lest an Indian war should break out, and reserves after the time of Sir James Douglas were granted partly owing to such fears. I shall quote the British Columbia records on these points