

ing certified extract thereupon handed out by the Commission:—

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

Extract from stenographic report of meeting with Indians of the Bella Coola Tribe, held on the Bella Coola Indian Reserve, on the 18th day of August, 1913:

The Chairman (addressing the Indians):—

"The Commission has listened attentively to the document which Mr. Gibson has just read. That paper raises the question of what is known as 'Indian Title.' It is the first time that it has been definitely raised before us since we started on our work. I have to tell you that the Commission has not authority as to that. It is not within their jurisdiction. All we have to do is to settle the size of the Reserves, as I have stated before; so it is useless to raise the question of 'Indian Title' before us. We have simply to carry out the agreement between the two Governments. We are further authorized to make representations with respect to your conditions and your wants, and what may be called the 'Future policy of governing you.' That is all. The very Commission that appoints us assumes that the title to these lands is 'In the Crown' and not 'In the Indians,' and we cannot escape it."

WHAT IS THE RESULT?

In this remarkable document the Commissioners have declared that the agreement between the two Governments, under which they are acting, assumes that the Indians of British Columbia have no aboriginal rights whatever in respect of the land of their forefathers.

WHAT IS CANADA'S PREVIOUS RECORD?

The Department of Justice.

In a report presented in January, 1875, the then Minister of Justice declared that the claim of these Indians was well founded and that they were entitled to an interest in the lands of British Columbia. In that report the Minister expressed the opinion that to treat these lands as the absolute property of the Province is "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."

Lord Dufferin.

In September, 1876, Lord Dufferin, then Governor-General