

respect of all unsundered lands, not a mere moral claim to consideration, but a right, which their Lordships describe as "the Indian Title," and which, they say, forms a burden upon lands held by a Province.

2. Before the founding of the United Colony of British Columbia in 1866, it was universally recognized that the Indians of British Columbia held such title.

3. Soon after that date the Government of the Colony decided to adopt the policy of refusing to recognize the title claimed by the Indians, which has since been the policy of successive Colonial and Provincial Governments. The adoption of this policy is for the first time officially shown in a report of the Commissioner of Lands and Works made in January, 1870.

4. In January, 1875, the Department of Justice of Canada reported that the view advanced by the Government of British Columbia was erroneous, and stated the opinion that "the Indian title must of necessity consist of some species of interest in the lands of British Columbia." That report was approved by order-in-council, and was thus adopted as the view of the Government of Canada.

5. This opinion of the Department of Justice no doubt formed the basis of the speech made at Victoria by Lord Dufferin, Governor-General of Canada, in September, 1876, from which I quoted in the former statement.

6. The Indians of the Province, with practical unanimity, have always claimed and continue to claim that they hold such title.

7. The Indians of the Skeena River and those of the Naas River have carried this claim to the extent of contending that they are entitled to exclude white settlers from these valleys. Those of the Skeena River have recently been very aggressive in asserting this view.

I go on to indicate some of the lines of effort by which it may be possible to solve this problem.