

does not cover the whole area of the problem as seen and felt by the Indians, and they will never be content until their full claim is investigated. The agitation now progressing makes our work difficult, and if suffered to continue will render our hold upon the Indians very precarious indeed."

Also the Indian Affairs Committee presented to the General Conference a Memorial reporting the progress which had been made in efforts put forth by the "Friends of the Indians" and the Committee on behalf of the Indians and asking the help of the Conference in carrying those efforts to complete success. That Memorial was referred to the Department of Social Service and Evangelism.

Also this subject was considered by the Missions Committee of the Conference. Following is an extract from report of the Missions Committee adopted by the Conference:—

"Your Committee recommend that the General Conference expresses its gratification that there appears to be a good prospect that the intricate, irritating question of the Indian title to lands in the Province of British Columbia may shortly be decided by the Highest Judicial authority in the Empire."

"Inasmuch as negotiations with this end in view are now in process between the Indians and the Government, we recommend that a Committee of five, to be nominated by the General Superintendent, be appointed, whose duty it shall be to assist in securing for our Indian brothers full and fair consideration of their claims and through whom all representations to the Government on their behalf by the Methodist Church shall be made."

The General Board of Social Service and Evangelism at a meeting held in September, 1915, adopted the following resolution:—

"Whereas for many years the Indians of British Columbia have made claims to certain rights in regard to the lands in that Province, basing these claims upon the fact of their being the original inhabitants, and because of a proclamation of King George III; and

"Whereas these claims have never been recognized, but much land has been taken from them without treaty or remuneration, such as has been given to Indians in other parts of the Dominion; and

"Whereas our last General Conference, recognizing the injurious moral effect of this unsettled question upon the Indians, recommended that the Government of Canada refer this matter to the Courts; and

"Whereas by an Order-in-Council, dated June 20th, 1914, the Government intimates its decision to submit the matter to the Exchequer Court, with privilege of appeal to the Privy Council, providing the Indians would consent to certain terms of surrender and other conditions.

"Therefore, this Board expresses its hearty approval of the submission of this matter to the proper Courts, provided the Government and the Indians can agree upon the terms, with the earnest hope that every facility shall be given to bring this matter to an equitable solution at the earliest possible date; and further, we respectfully express the opinion that the end desired would be more speedily gained if the Indians were permitted to nominate their own counsel to represent them in the Courts and throughout all these negotiations; and, having the welfare of these Indians in mind, we beg further to suggest that in case their claim is sustained in whole or in part, the remuneration given be in such a form and administered in such a way as may conserve the best interests of the Indians throughout the future."