

Our first reason is that the claim of reversionary title to Indian reserves, which this Province makes, has so far as our information extends, no precedent in the whole of North America. Throughout the rest of Canada, and we think also throughout the United States, an Indian reserve is a tract of land which belongs wholly to the Indians. Our second reason is that upon whatever grounds the claim of the Province may be based it cannot be based upon anything found in Article 13 of the Terms of Union, by which it was provided that tracts of land "shall from time to time be conveyed from the local to the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians." In Article 13 you will not find one word relating to reconveyance. Our third reason is that while undoubtedly there is to be found in the agreement made between the two Governments in 1876 some language upon which the Province has reason to base its claim, the Indian tribes were not parties to and are not bound by that agreement. You recently spoke in the House of your desire to respect the rights of the Indians. Upon that principle we suggest that the fact that the Indians were not parties to the agreement should be considered by you quite material. Our fourth reason is that if you compare the existing reserve system of Canada with that of British Columbia you will find some very marked points of contrast. Let me mention these: Throughout the rest of Canada, with some exceptions in the far Eastern part, the reserves are based upon treaty. In British Columbia treaties have not been made. Throughout the rest of Canada the reserves are held by the Dominion. In British Columbia they are held by the Province. In all other parts of Canada the permanent right has been given to the Indians and it is recognized that all beneficial interest in the reserves belongs to the Indians. In British Columbia all that is recognized is actual occupation. In the matter of the quantity of lands set apart you will find considerable difference. In the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan there has been set apart an average of 180 acres for every man woman and child of the Indian population. In British Columbia the quantity is a little more than twenty acres.

*Mr. McBride:* What are those figures?