

christianized state it would become probably a war of extermination, with all its attendant horrors. With the coast Indians recourse to arms would only be as a last and desperate resort. Meanwhile they are strengthening themselves in their trust in their God and waiting on him, for they feel and know they have right on their side, and well they know that he can laugh at the most powerful armaments of nations, and in his own way and time help and protect even the poorest and weakest.

Living among these Indians and hearing and seeing what goes on, such is the picture, as I see it, of the present state of affairs, and sad I am to have to tell the tale, and little did I once dream that I should have to disclose such a state of things. There are, I think, two questions that every thoughtful mind in the province will ask: "Are the government justified in continuing to act on a policy which has so far proved worse than useless? and, secondly, is there no alternative policy?" To the second of these questions I answer, that it seems to me to be quite possible to frame a policy free from the evils attending the present one—less expensive in operation and securing the settling up of the country in a peaceable way. Of course, after the past, the Indians will naturally look with suspicion on any proposal, and patience and tact in dealing with them will be needed; but since the government would gain the aid and influence of every true friend of the Indians their task would be facilitated and a bond of union re-established between the government and the Indians. The basis of such a policy should be *justice*, and it should be so framed as to show that it emanated from the government as a voluntary effort and not as if wrung from them. Then, again, it must be so framed as not to be made a precedent to unsettle Indians whose claims have already been dealt with and who are satisfied. And again, it should so deal with the question of the general land claims as to take away its significance and absorb it in secondary matters,