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INDIANS OF PROVINCE SEEK MANY CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION

SIXTEEN POINTS SOUGHT BY INDIAN TRIBES.

1. All foreshores fronting on reserves to form part of such reserves.
 2. Further land grants from the B. C. Government on a basis of 160 acres per capita.
 3. Unrestricted right of fresh water fishing for food purposes.
 4. All rights for commercial fishing off Indian reserves.
 5. Rights for commercial fishing without license fee, off lands not within Indian tenure.
 6. Right to secure license for purse and seine fishing at half usual fee. This privilege is not now enjoyed by Indians.
 7. Right to cut timber outside reserves, for fuel and manufacture of canoes.
 8. Amendment of the Pelagic Sealing Treaty of 1911 to allow the towage of canoes by gasoline launches, to be used in the capture of seals, from the reserves to the sealing grounds.
 9. Ample water for irrigation purposes.
 10. Unrestricted right to hunting and trapping, and hereditary trap-line rights, wiping out the restrictions imposed by the B. C. Game Act, which limits trapping privileges to those regularly employed in that occupation.
 11. Extension of school facilities on the reserves, by high and technical education on equal terms to those available to white residents.
 12. Absolutely free medical and hospital attention, and tubercular sanitariums through the Province.
 - 13.—Sufficient grazing areas. (The B. C. Government has already set aside large areas for aboriginal stockmen).
 14. Mothers' and widows' pensions, as effective in British Columbia for white women.
 15. Cash compensation for annuities similar to treaty annuities.
 16. Re-imbursement of about \$100,000 spent endeavoring to secure settlement of land title question.
- Many amendments of the Indian Act are also sought, chiefly dealing with the administration of the funds accruing from the sale of reserves, and other capital property of the tribes.

For five days Indian leaders in British Columbia have continued in this city the series of conferences initiated with Hon. Charles Stewart, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and Dr. Duncan C. Scott, Deputy Superintendent General in Vancouver last month. When Mr. Stewart went East, it was decided that the conferences would continue here with Dr. Scott and W. E. Ditchburn, Inspector of Indian Agencies. The conferences concluded this afternoon, the delegation in lieu of a legal fight on the prior right claimed to the title of all land in the Province asking for a number of concessions, and removal of restrictions.

This right, which would affect all land except a small area on the island, is contested by the Province of British Columbia, as being the sole owner of Crown lands. The Dominion, as its successor under the Terms of Union in the relation of guardian of the Indians; has made some adjustments of reserve boundaries under the recommendations of the Royal Commission, such arrangements being recently validated by Provincial Order-in-Council.

If the land grant of 160 acres per capita were to be conceded, instead of the Indians owning about 750,000 acres, they would be entitled to 4,000,000 acres in this province.

The representations made by the delegation will go to the Minister for consideration.

Falling an adjustment on the above lines the delegation indicated it would press for a test case in the courts.

The Delegation.

The members of the delegation attending were:

Rev. P. R. Kelly, Chairman, representing the Haida Indians.

Andrew Paul, Squamish, secretary, representing the Indian tribes from Burrard Inlet to Cape Mudge.

Mrs. Jane Cook, of Alert Bay, Kwawkweweth Agency, Cape Mudge to Rivers Inlet.

Ambrose Reid, Indians of West Coast to Naas River and part of the Skeena.

George Matheson, Chilliwack Indians.

Christopher Paul, Saanich Peninsula.

Simon Pierre, Lower Fraser Valley.

Narcisse Baptiste, Central Interior.

Alec. Leonard, Kamloops and Shuswap.

Tom Adolph, Indians of Interior.

Stephen Retasket, Lillooet and Lytton Indians.

Land Titles.

Rev. A. O'Meara, on behalf of the Council of the Allied Indians, submitted from a constitutional standpoint that the Indians of British Columbia had never ceded their lands to the Crown in the right of the Province.

It was submitted that the only conveyances were 228 square miles of territory on Vancouver Island transferred by Indian tribes to Governor Douglas, around Victoria, Nanaimo and Fort Rupert, prior to Confederation.

Hon. Charles Stewart last year had stated that he was prepared to treat with the Indians in British Columbia in the same way as in other sections of the Dominion, provided the Indians would surrender the land title claim. This was alternative to the policy of taking a test case to court.