

My second plea is drawn from the Canadian Government itself. They are the guardians of the Indians and in the last resort any responsibility arising from the care of the Indians must be brought home to them. Forty years ago the Government took a strong stand on behalf of the Indians. The late Government did the same; they instructed their agents to assure the Indians that their claims would be submitted to the Judicial Committee; and Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave them public assurances to the same effect. And he told a deputation, of which we were members, that courts existed for the settlement of just such differences as had arisen in British Columbia; that it was the part of good government to see that no portion of the population lay under a grievance, and that he would do all in his power to bring the question before the Judicial Committee. Forty years ago it would have been easy to settle the question. It is ten times harder now. It will be ten times harder still in ten years from this. There is no time to be lost in bringing the question to a final issue.

My third plea is drawn from the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, which I have the honour to represent here. They feel strongly that this troublesome, perhaps even dangerous, question should be settled without delay. Under the best advice given them they are convinced that it can only be finally and satisfactorily settled by a reference to the Judicial Committee. They recommend that, before the matter of the reserves be proceeded with, the more fundamental question of Indian title be disposed of. And they are in full accord with