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Victoria Daily Times
May 26th. 1911

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INDIANS' CLAIMS TO CROWN LANDS

Dominion Government De-
cides to Submit Case to
the Courts

Vancouver, May 26.—After an agitation lasting for several years, during which time the Provincial and Dominion governments were successively importuned to listen to the complaints and claims of the Aborigines, it has just been decided by the authorities at Ottawa to submit to judicial hearing the case of the British Columbia Indians who contend that they are entitled to a share of the crown lands in this province.

Information to this effect was received to-day by representatives of the Indians from lawyers in the east who acted in the presentation of the claims at Ottawa. It is stated that the case will be submitted to either the supreme court of Canada or the privy council, and that action to this end will be taken shortly after the close of the coronation festivities, the latter part of next month.

Some time ago parties who had interested themselves in the claims of the Indians waited on the provincial government and asked that a stated case be submitted to the courts, but the request was refused on the ground that the aborigines had no case in law. Then followed an appeal to Ottawa, with the result that a decision has been reached to settle for all time whether or not the Indians have any legal claims to the crown lands of British Columbia.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7780, File 27150-3-1)

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