

INTRODUCTORY.

In November, 1912, the "Friends of the Indians of British Columbia" presented to the Governor-General of Canada in Council a memorial, containing among other things an historical sketch extending to that time. The purpose of this pamphlet is that of sketching subsequent developments and stating the situation to which these have led.

INTERVIEWS WITH CANADIAN MINISTERS.

November, 1912, to March, 1913.

In the course of an interview had with the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, on 5th November, 1912, Rev. Dr. Tucker, representing the Moral and Social Reform Council (now the Social Service Council) of Canada, stated the situation to be dealt with as follows:—

"The Indians of British Columbia, as the original inhabitants of the country, claim that they have certain rights in the land, and before the Government can sell or dispose of the land those claims should be considered. The Government of the Province, on the other hand, take the position that the Indians have no rights, and, though they have never given any reason for their position, they positively refuse to modify it. It is on this clear-cut issue that we present our case to-day.

"From the common-sense point of view it would seem to appeal to all unprejudiced and disinterested people that men who have inhabited a country from time immemorial and made their living there, must have certain rights which no newcomers should altogether overlook and override. Those rights should be extinguished in some equitable way by negotiation and compensation. Mere strength, or numbers, or superior intelligence, or even the interests of civilization cannot justify us in disregarding what may be looked upon as an inherent right."

On 27th November, 1912, the agreement which in September had been entered into by Mr. J. A. J. McKenna, Commissioner for the Government of Canada, and Premier McBride, relating to the Reserves, and not expressly dealing with the aboriginal claims of the Indians, was adopted by the Government of Canada.

On 28th November, 3rd December, and 5th December, there were had interviews with the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs and the Minister of Justice, the result of which was, on 10th December, 1912, communicated by the Representative of the "Friends of the Indians," acting under authority received from the Superintendent-General