

reason of a communication which appeared in one of the Montreal evening papers respecting the Oka Indians, last December. It contains several statements which go to show that the long-standing difficulties between the Indians and the Seminary are yet unsettled. It would appear also that the Dominion Government, or the Department of Indian Affairs, is blamed for the continuance of strife and unpleasantness. Among other things, the Indians who visited the newspaper office are reported to have said: "This they wish the Government to do: to *state plainly to whom the property belongs*. If they can show that they (the Indians) have no claim to it, then they will leave the Seminary in undisputed possession; but if the Seminary have no rights, they wish them to go, or if both have rights, then each should exercise their rights in peace." The whole interview as reported leaves the impression that the Indians have never been informed of their position on the Seigniorship of the Lake of Two Mountains, and further, it is to be inferred that the legal status of the Seminary is yet an open question, and therefore certain friends of the Indians in Montreal and elsewhere are warranted in encouraging the Indians to claim the lands as proprietors thereof. In regard to the Dominion Government, it is not probable that the Department, having charge of Indian affairs has to this day left the Indians in ignorance of their true relation to the land and to the Seminary.* In fact, it is not so, but the persistent way in which some people continue to speak and write on the subject would lead to the supposition that the question of title is unsettled and uncertain, and that therefore it is right and proper to protract agitation on the subject in the hope of gain to the Indians. Certainly, if the question of

* See Appendix (a).