

In October last the Chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee and the Chairman of the "Friends of the Indians" issued an Explanatory Statement in the concluding paragraph of which they advised that all other Tribes of the Province should take their stand with the Nishgas in seeking to secure an early reference of their Petition to the Judicial Committee and assured the Nishgas and other Tribes of the continued help of the Council and the "Friends of the Indians."

THE CHURCHES STAND BEHIND THE COUNCIL.

Note.—The Churches specially mentioned below are those in case of each of which some special action has been taken.

POLICY OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The first step of outstanding importance taken by the "Friends of the Indians of British Columbia" was that in August, 1910, a Memorial was presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier upon occasion of his visit to the Pacific Coast. The second step was that immediately thereafter a copy of that Memorial was brought before the General Conference of the Methodist Church at its meeting then being held in Victoria, together with a Memorial addressed to the Conference. The whole subject was then discussed between a special committee of the Conference and delegates of the "Friends of the Indians." As a result the General Conference adopted the following resolution:—

"Re Memorial from 'The Conference of Friends of the Indians of British Columbia,' concerning the title to Indian Lands in the Province of British Columbia.

"This question is too complex and involves too many intricate and legal matters to permit an expression by the General Conference upon the merits of the case.

"We are impressed, however, with the importance of such measures being taken as will allay all existing unrest and discontent.

"To this end we would express the hope that the Governments concerned will facilitate a prompt and final settlement of the whole question of the Indian title.

"We desire to impress all friends of the Indians with the supreme importance of dealing with these matters with the utmost calmness and judicial spirit; and we further instruct our missionaries to remind the Indians under their care that they can only hope for a satisfactory adjustment of their claims by proceeding along constitutional lines.

"We also recommend that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of the Interior at Ottawa, and to the Attorney-General at Victoria, B.C."

It is requested that very special consideration be given to the resolution of the Methodist General Conference above set out, for two reasons:—

1. It embodies the fundamental principles upon which the work of the "Friends of the Indians" was commenced and has ever since been carried on.
2. Upon the basis of that resolution the Council of Canada acted in passing its first resolution and deciding to take its first step at Ottawa in co-operation with the "Friends of the Indians," which was taken upon occasion of interview had with the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in October of that year.

The British Columbia Indian land question was further dealt with upon occasion of the meeting of the Methodist General Conference held at Ottawa in the year 1914. Following is an extract from the opening address of the General Superintendents then delivered:—

"It is also essential to the lasting influence of our workers amongst the Indians, and the success of their work, that what is known as the land question in the Province of British Columbia should reach a speedy and evidently just settlement. The scope of the Commissions hitherto appointed