### CLAIM LAND WAS NEVER CONQUERED

Naas River Indians Deny Right of Settlers to Stake Off Land in Aryansh Valley-A Remarkable Document

Trouble is again threatened by the native inhabitants of the Nass River, who last winter inaugurated a short-lived campaign against the whites which would have doubtless been disastrous but for the prompt measures of the Government to protect the isolated settlers in the threatened district. During the past few weeks numerous land-seekers and prospectors have been turned back by the Indians, with the message that the natives claim proprietorship in the country, and can only be defeated in warfare for possession. Indian Agent Perry states that the latest recrudescence of trouble arises through the intemperate boasting of certain white men, who have taken a perilous pleasure in taunting the Indians that if they do aught to break the peace of the land, soldiers will be sent north and "the Naas will run red with blood." The Naas Indians are highly civilized and take their stand on the established principles of international law that national ownership of any country may only be established by right of conquest, treaty acquisition or formal purchase. The Naas country, they assert, has neverbeen so acquired by Great Britain, and if it is to be claimed by right of conquest, they propose to fight for their heritage as did the Boers of South Africa.

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During last year and this, the natives have spent upwards of \$2,000 in securing legal opinions of eminent constitutional lawyers in Toronto and in Vancouver. During the past few weeks each land-seeker turned back has been duly served with a copy of the formal statement of the Indians' position, which remarkable document reads as hereunder:

"Whereas we, the Indian people of the Aiyansh Valley, Naas River, British Columbia, being the lawful and original inhabitants and possessors of all the lands contained therein from time immemorial; and being assured in our possession of the same by the proclamation of His Majesty King George III., under date of October 7th, 1763, which proclamation we hold as our Charter of Rights under the British Crown;

"And whereas, It is provided in the said proclamation that no private person do presume to make any purchase from us of any lands so reserved to us until we shall have ceded the same to the representatives of the Crown in public meeting between us and them;

"And whereas, up to the present time our lands have not been ceded by us to the Crown, nor in any way alienated from us by any agreement or settlement between the representatives of the Crown and ourselves:

"And whereas, our case is now before the Privy Council in England and we are expecting a settlement of this Province at an early date;

"We do therefore, standing well within our constitutional rights, forbid you to stake off land in this valley, and do hereby protest against your proceeding further into our country with that end in view—until such time as a satisfac-tory satisfacent process."

"Dated at Aiyansh, British Columbia, this 17th day of May, 1910."

The trade unions are entirely logical in asking for restriction on the importation of laborers for the protected industries, says the New York Times. If we are all to be taxed to give high prices and profits to those industries it is absurd that the beneficiaries shall have the further advantage of imported cheap labor to compete with workmen already here for whom protection is professed to saked whom protection is professedly asked. This argument is now practically the only one that has any direct influence on votes. No one any longer believes that our industries are "infant"; that they cannot hold the home market against all comers; that our varied natural resources, with our careble natural resources. they cannot hold the home market against all comers; that our varied natural resources, with our capable workmen, do not give our manufacturers the better of any competitors at home and of many even foreign markets. Nor do those who have mastered the subject doubt that the "cheap labor" of older countries, measured by its product, is more costly than our own at higher wages. But to a considerable portion of American workmen and to the unthinking classes the protective tariff is protective to labor, the cause of higher wages and of the superior scale of living which undoubtedly prevails in this country. This is the unblushing pretension of the favored employers. Now, it is plain that it is from this point of view an injustice and an outrage to permit the importation of foreign laborers to compete with our own. It is also a logical cause of complaint if immigration of competitors without the direct action of employers is allowed. The result is the same though the methods vary.

Mr. Stern is cashler for Mr. Schwartz in a New York restaurant. He fell heir to \$300,000, and in order to celebrate the occasion he asked for a night off and blew in ten cents for a night off and blew in ten cents on a visit to a moving picture show. This recalls a story of an old lady in an eastern province, who fell heir to an estate yielding an interpret of \$30,000 a year. When the fits, year's amount arrived—it all came at once as it had been accumulating pending search for her—she asked her lawyer what she should do with it. He suggested that she had better give her sons, who were poor, some of it. "I've been thinking that over and concluded that it would be right to give them each \$10." she said. Thirty dollars was a sum she could appreciate, but \$30,000 was beyond her comprehension. Mr. Stern seems to be of the same class. But, as he is young, he will learn and he won't have to look for teachers.

The Great Northern has been very severely condemned by a coroner's jury sitting in the case of the death of Shegoro Owendara, a Japanese laborer. Gross neglect of adequate protection agencies is charged against the railway company.

Tuesday, June 7, 1910



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