

One result of all this is that the claim, which the Indians have for many years been making, they are now making with increasing earnestness and more unitedly than ever, and all the more so on account of the very refusal of your Government.

Then when we come to ask what the Imperial Government thinks of the matter we find the Imperial Minister expressing the opinion that the claim of the Indians should be dealt with. The Imperial Minister has followed that expression of opinion by expressing his desire that an equitable solution should be brought about. We are proposing that the Province take two definite steps towards solution. In doing so we do not pretend to judge of the merits of the proposal from the point of view of the Province. That is a matter for your Government to weigh and to decide. We do think that some solution would be greatly in the public interest, and we think that our proposals, if adopted, would open the way for arriving at a solution.

The first step which we propose is that the provisions made by Section 80 of the Land Act for reconveyance be repealed.

*Mr. Mc Bride:* What is the section to which you refer?

*Mr. O'Meara:* I will read it to you.

"For the purpose of conveying the same to the Dominion Government in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians, and in trust to reconvey the same to the Provincial Government in case such lands at any time cease to be used by such Indians."

We suggest that all words after the words "benefit of the Indians" should be struck out.

*Mr. McBride:* In other words that the Government abandon its reversionary rights?

*Mr. O'Meara:* Yes, that would be the effect of it. We quite recognize that we are asking you to consider what would be a very decided departure from the policy of the Province, which, however, we think would be a very real step in advance. We ask you to consider several reasons, supporting as we think, this proposal.