

We understand 300 Indians have left Metlakahltla for Port Chester, in the United States, Province of Alaska, and that 200 more are preparing to follow. This will leave about 200 to form the nucleus of what we trust will be a flourishing and increasing loyal and Christian village, the chief centre of the interesting and extensive missions of the Church Missionary Society on the North Pacific Coast.

It is sad to think that these poor Indians thus exiled from their home, from the Church which from the first has cared for them, and from the paternal and liberal rule of the British Government, have been and are under a delusion, wickedly and persistently inculcated that the Government intends to sell their land and make them slaves, and that the Bishop and the Missionaries of the Church of England are their enemies.

Many have left very reluctantly under this delusion and under the influence of an oppressive illegal council, which has led them, not without direction of white leaders, to so much trouble in acts of violence and resistance of the Government. They now go to their own loss and injury, perhaps ultimate misery and dispersion, also to a spurious religion.

Aiders and abettors of this injury and loss to the Indians and the Province have been a few persons in Victoria; Mr. J. W. Macdonald and others not unpractised in discord, by encouraging William Duncan, a paid and kindly treated lay agent of the Church Missionary Society, to play false to his employers, to abuse the influence he had been enabled to gain by the Society's too generous confidence, and to strive by any means to oust the Society from Metlakahltla, and take possession of buildings erected by funds of the Society and its friends.

This project having naturally failed these same persons resorted to the unpatriotic act of recommending a traitor to American sympathy in the Eastern States with the view of raising money to transport our British Indians to a foreign land.

It is to be regretted that the Indian Department and the Provincial Government did not protect these Indians from such evil influences.

Had the Indian Department appointed a firm and intelligent agent, as it was and is their duty to do, such an officer going in and out amongst the native people would have been able to disabuse them of their delusions and probably entirely prevent injurious consequences.