

occurred on the Red River and the Saskatchewan many years ago. It would be a calamity beyond description and an indelible stain on our national honour if similar occurrences were to take place in British Columbia today because we persistently refused even to consider the claims of the Indians.

And we appear before you because the Indians are wards of the nation and you represent the nation in its relation to the Indians. Our present purpose is mainly to give information. We do not ask you to take any definite or immediate step at this juncture. But when the time is ripe we hope that the Government of Canada, as Guardian of the Indians, will see its way clear to take such steps as may assist in bringing about such a settlement of this question as may be satisfactory to all concerned, such a settlement as will tend, by its equity, to promote the best interests of the Province and of the Dominion.