

"At the same time I desire to express my earnest hope that the Provincial Government or the Dominion Government, or both, will find it possible to take early steps to arrive at an equitable solution of this troublesome case."

On the 8th January last at Ottawa nine Indian Chiefs, representing the interior tribes of British Columbia, waited upon the Prime Minister of Canada and presented their claim.

From the formal statement then handed to the Prime Minister we quote the following:

"We have reached a critical point, and unless justice comes to our rescue, we must go back and sink out of sight as a race. We have been told there is no issue, but we think there is a very clear issue, and our reason for being here is to press for an equitable settlement of the same, and an adjustment of every question concerning us and our relationship with your Government and that of British Columbia.

"In conclusion, we urge you most earnestly to give us an immediate reply, stating what your Government is prepared to do regarding a settlement of these matters, which are of so much moment to us, so that we may carry your answer back to our people, and place it before them on our return."

One of the Chiefs concluded his address to the Prime Minister with these words:

"The whole country has been taken from us without treaty or agreement, and without compensation of any kind, and the cities have come later, and the railways later, and these things have been built on our lands."

The Prime Minister, in the course of his reply, said:

"That the petition and all the words they have said to us will be read with great care and considered, and that word will be sent to Mr. Clark with regard to these matters."

On the 15th January last the Premier of British Columbia, in addressing the Legislative Assembly of that Province, declared that his Government was determined to stand firm in the position which had been taken in respect to the Crown lands of the Province and would refuse to "consider for a moment" the claim of the Indians. In the same address the Premier stated that his Government hoped soon to reach an arrangement with the Government of Canada with regard to Indian Reserves.