

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN LAND QUESTION

AN APPEAL FOR ACTION

ADDRESS OF REV. CANON TUCKER
BEFORE THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
AT OTTAWA, 15th APRIL, 1913

I wish to say a few words today, not by way of giving information, as I have done on previous occasions, but as an earnest plea on behalf of speedy action, looking to the final and satisfactory settlement of this difficult question.

My first plea is drawn from the Indians themselves. For forty long years they have pleaded and prayed and waited for a settlement of their claims. And they have waited through all those trying years without committing any act of violence, though they have often been under severe provocation. And they have persisted in this peaceful course mainly because of their sublime, their invincible faith and trust in the British and Canadian Governments. It is pathetic, at times, to see them show a child-like confidence in British justice. And they are gradually being overwhelmed by the inrush of settlers through the policy of the Provincial Government. Action should be taken to do them justice before it is too late, before they are brought to see that they have pleaded and prayed and waited in vain.