

1 the land question, the Commissioners were referred to the documents connected with the matter printed in the Annual Report for last year, in the spirit of which they were requested to act. They were reminded that the Government considered it a matter of paramount importance that is the settlement of the land question, nothing should be done which could militate against the maintenance of friendly relations between the Dominion Government and the Indians of British Columbia, and they were officially enjoined as little as possible to interfere with any existing tribal arrangements; and particularly, that they were to be careful not to disturb the Indians in the possession of any villages, fishing stations, fur-trading posts, settlements or clearings which they might occupy, and to which they might be specially attached.

1 0 The Commissioners were, moreover, warned against making any attempts to cause any violent or sudden change in the habits of the Indians, or to divert them from any legitimate pursuits and occupations in which they might be profitably engaged, but rather to encourage them in any branch of industry in which they were so employed.

2 0 The Commissioners were instructed to confer in all matters with the two Superintendents in British Columbia namely, with Dr. Powell of Victoria, and Mr. Lenihan of New Westminster, and these gentlemen were directed to cooperate with and assist the Commissioners in the execution of their important labours. Finally, the necessity of bringing their labours to a close as soon as possible practicable with a view to the early adjustment of this grave controversy, was strongly impressed on the Commissioners.

3 0 It may be here remarked that all the Commissioners appointed have been for many years past resident in British Columbia, and thoroughly identified with that Province.