

Another point I would like to raise, is this: I would like to say, whether this Committee sees fit to recommend to Parliament that the aboriginal title of the Indians of British Columbia is not a good one and cannot be supported, and recommends to Parliament that it be set aside and not considered at all, the fact remains that you have not treated us as you should have treated us in the days gone by. That is the great issue. In 1871, when British Columbia entered Confederation, if treaties had been made with the Indian Tribes of British Columbia, as was done elsewhere, we would have received certain benefits from that date, and we have not received those benefits. There was brought against our claims a computation of what annuities of five dollars per capita would come to, something over \$2,500,000, in the course of twenty years. I contend that if the country can get off with \$2,500,000, I think they would be getting off rather lightly, in view of the fact that the Indian Tribes who are receiving annuities continually, and will receive them until the last Indian dies or is enfranchised, they are receiving many times more than \$2,500,000. In the course of time it will amount to a huge sum of money, and yet it has been brought forward as an argument to hinder the fair consideration of the case insofar as our claim is concerned.

By Mr. McPherson:

Q. You do not expect, of course, that title will be given to the Indians of British Columbia?—A. Oh, no.

Q. You expect further consideration, though?—A. Consideration and benefits.

Q. What amount do you think is right?—A. I could not say that; I do not think that is a fair question.

Q. I wondered whether you had arrived at an amount?—A. No, I have not. I think even the Privy Council has refrained from stating any amount, and I am not presuming to be a greater authority than that wonderful body.

Q. You are the man that is asking for value received?—A. Yes, I think it could be worked out.

Q. It is up to you to put your price on it?—A. Yes. I see your point, but this procedure has been followed in the past and I think we have documentary evidence in support of that to satisfy any claims of the Indians along those lines. The Imperial Government, before the days of Confederation, followed the procedure of negotiating with the Indian Tribes; met the Tribes in Council and negotiated with them. The negotiations with them perhaps was just a formal procedure. What was said by the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs may be true when he said something to the effect that treaties were already prepared and were simply submitted to the Indian Tribes. That may be quite true; I cannot dispute that. Nevertheless, they went through the formality of negotiating with those Indian Chiefs who were responsible and who represented their Tribes.

By Hon. Mr. Stevens:

Q. Your real desire is to receive official acknowledgment of the aboriginal title; that is your point?—A. Yes.

By Mr. McPherson:

Q. Which title would be in the province of British Columbia and not in the Dominion of Canada?—A. Quite true.

Q. How can we do that?—A. Well, I think that is for you to decide, not for me. There seems to me, under the terms of union when British Columbia entered Confederation, there were certain things agreed to. Among those is article 13, which was quoted by Premier Oliver in his telegram to Hon. Charles Stewart the other day; that after British Columbia gives an adequate area of