

all the land and territories not included within the limits of our said three new governments, or within the limits of the territory granted to the Hudson's Bay Company as also all the lands and territories lying to the westward of the sources of the rivers which fall into the sea from the west and northwest as aforesaid; and we do hereby forbid, on pain of our displeasure, all our loving subjects from making any purchases or settlements whatever, or taking possession of any of the lands above reserved, without our special leave and license for that purpose obtained.'

"Now, that royal proclamation was intended to apply in a sweeping, general way, to the British dominions in North America. The Indian Commissioners appointed by the Government of Canada in the year 1844, while Indian affairs were still under the direction of the Imperial Government, thus stated the effect of the proclamation: 'The subsequent proclamation of His Majesty King George the Third issued in 1763, furnished them (the Indians) with a fresh guarantee for the possession of their hunting grounds and the protection of the Crown. This document the Indians look upon as their Charter. They have preserved a copy of it till the present time and have referred to it on several occasions in their representations to the Government.'

"We find, in the Imperial Statutes passed in 1803, 1821 and 1849, which followed up the royal proclamation of King George the Third, all the lands now forming the Province of British Columbia described as 'Indian Territories.' The Statute of 1849 reads: 'And whereas for the purpose of the colonization of that part of the said Indian territories called Vancouver's Island it is expedient that further provision be made for the administration of justice therein.'

"During the years 1850 and 1851 fourteen treaties were made between Sir James Douglas, then agent of the Hudson's Bay Company which then held from the Crown a lease of Vancouver Island, and various tribes of Indians. The consideration consisted of money and other benefits, and by means of a formal document, which describes itself as a sale upon its face, each tribe of Indians surrendered its title to the tract of land mentioned in the treaty. As a result of twelve of these treaties a tract of land lying within the