

to the Government of British Columbia if they value the peace and prosperity of their Province to reconsider in a spirit of wisdom and patriotism the land grievances of which the Indians of that Province complain apparently with good reason and take such measures as may be necessary promptly and effectually to redress them." In 1875 the Minister of Justice adopted a report which was also approved by the Governor-General in Council, which stated that "no surrender or cession of their territorial rights has ever been executed by the Indian tribes of the Province, that they allege that the reservations of land made by the Government for their use have been arbitrarily so made and are totally inadequate to their support and requirements and without their assent, that they are not averse to hostilities in order to enforce rights which it is impossible to deny them, that the Act under consideration ignores those rights, and is objectionable as tending to deal with lands which are assumed to be the absolute property of the Province, an assumption which completely ignores, as applicable to the Indians of British Columbia, the honour and good faith with which the Crown has in all other cases since its sovereignty of the territories in North America dealt with their various Indian tribes." And in 1876 Lord Dufferin spoke of the attitude of the Provincial Government as an error and a deviation from the practice of their predecessors and warned them of the danger of having the Indian title unsettled.

At this point I shall leave my friend, Mr. O'Meara, to place before you the steps that have been taken in recent years to bring about a settlement of this important question.

I would, however, say before closing that the present position of affairs is highly dangerous and very detrimental to many important interests. It must affect injuriously the material interests of the Province, as settlers cannot be expected to purchase land of which the title is contested. It is a serious hindrance to all our Missionary work. Archdeacon Collison, for the Church of England, Dr. Chown for the Methodist Church, and Father Belot for the Roman Church, have testified that the unsettled state of the Indians was a great drawback to the work of education and civilization carried on among them. We all deplore today the rebellion and bloodshed that