the foundation of their dealing with the petition of the Indian tribes of British Columbia."

In August, 1910, Sir Wilfrid Laurier met the Chiefs and other delegates of several of the Indian tribes and assured them that the matter of their claims would be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as had been asked by the Indians in the petition which in March, 1909, they presented to His late Majesty King Edward, and the then Secretary of Sates for the Colonies, which petition was subsequently referred to and considered by the then Government of Canada.

Notwithstanding the repeated requests of the then Government of Canada, the advice of the Province's one Counsel, who approved of the questions to be laid before the Judicial Committee prepared by the Department of Justice, and submitted to him and to the Counsel for the Indians, the representations of the 'Friends of the Indians' and those of the Indians themselves, the Government of British Columbia refused to consent to a reference of the question of Indian title to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The situation arising from such refusal Reform Council of Canada before the Indians' and the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada before the then Government of Canada on 26th April, 1911, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier in answer to the delegation said:

"The British Columbia Government contends that the Indians have no claim. If the case could be referred to the Supreme Court and the Privy Council it would bring the matter to an issue at once. Unfortunately, Mr. McBride would not agree to that submission. He only agreed to leave out of the question the very thing we want to have a decision upon. We do not know if we can force a Government into court. If we can find a way I may say we shall surely do so, because everybody will agree it is a matter of good government to have no one resting under a grievance. The Indians will continue to believe thay have a grievance until it has been settled by the court that 'they have a claim or that they have no claim. There is one thing which I am very happy to say we can do, and that is to submit to the Imperial Government the report which you request us to send. Mr. McBride has himself asked that the report of the interview with the Indians be sent to the Imperial authorities. We shall also refer to them the views you have just laid before us."

The report then promised having been sent to the Imperial Government, representations were made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who in a despatch sent to the Governor-General of Canada on 6th July, 1911, said:

"As your Ministers are aware, this question of the position of the Indian land claim in British Columbia has been for some long time pressed upon my predecessors and myself.