

Mr. O'MEARA: I have the date here: The 31st July, 1858. It is easily available. They are in the form of books of considerable size. I will take the burden of producing anything of that sort if the Committee desire it produced.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: What is that, Lord Lytton's instructions?

Mr. O'MEARA: It is a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I do not know whether he was Lord Lytton at that time.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I think so.

Mr. O'MEARA: Possibly.

The CHAIRMAN: How are we to know that your quotation is correctly extracted?

Mr. O'MEARA: I will undertake to produce the original. My quotation has been taken from the actual historical record that is in the Parliamentary library, and perhaps for my immediate purpose, the Committee will allow me to undertake to bring that book here if necessary. The records are sessional papers, and all that sort of record. This is in the year 1858. I appreciate the point, Mr. Chairman and hon. gentlemen, and I am willing to take the burden of producing right here all these actual records. Perhaps the Committee, with that undertaking, will permit me to read these few words from them.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Our experience hitherto has not been very satisfactory about that sort of thing, Mr. O'Meara.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: Let us hear it and get on.

Mr. O'MEARA: This is rather important historical evidence, Mr. Chairman. May I read it? It is very short. This is what he said to Governor Douglas:

Let me not omit to observe that it should be an invariable condition in all bargains or treaties with the natives for the cession of lands possessed by them, that subsistence should be supplied to them in some other shape.

Now, hon. gentlemen, it has been advanced and advanced over and over again as an outstanding proposition in connection with this Indian land question, that while on Vancouver Island certain things were done by way of conceding that there was an Indian title, nothing whatever of that sort was done in respect of the mainland. That is a contention that has been very strongly made. Now will honourable gentlemen notice that the date on which this despatch was conveyed from London to Governor Douglas was the very day on which the Royal assent was given to the bill by which as an enactment the Colony of British Columbia, the mainland colony, came into existence.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: When was that?

Mr. O'MEARA: The 21st July, 1858, on the day on which the Royal assent was given to the Act which created the mainland colony of British Columbia, the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent this despatch to Governor Douglas. And allow me to go on to point out that that despatch, in so many plain words, recognizes the necessity of making a treaty with the natives for the concession of lands possessed by them. And let me also point out—

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: Of course that is an assertion of yours.

Mr. O'MEARA: It is this language.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: No, let us make that clear. I object, Mr. Chairman, to this claim that these things are proved.

Mr. O'MEARA: I submit the language used to the Committee to judge.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: I have another part of it before me, which indicates something altogether different. If we had the whole of the despatch here it would be quite different from an isolated quotation. The whole of the despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Governor Douglas, of 1858, indicates that the British authorities had been up to that time in full possession of British Columbia, administering it as a colony. In this despatch, Sir James

[Mr. O'Meara.]