

Q. And is not that the very reason why you have to arrive at what the value of the land was?—A. Well, give us a negotiating committee, and we will meet you, and I think we can arrive at some valuation of what we are claiming. You have not been able to do that, or at least you have not been willing to do that in the past. We have asked for that, but we have not been able to receive it.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. As I understand it, Mr. Kelly, you take the position that what you have received up to the present time has been given as a matter of grace, and not in satisfaction of this aboriginal title?—A. Exactly. It has been so stated officially.

Q. Therefore, if you were to sit down and negotiate now, all that has been given would be wiped out of consideration? The new consideration would be an amount over and above all that you have already received?—A. Something like that. We would not forget what has been received.

Q. Would you take it into account though?—A. That is a matter of negotiation, I would say.

*By Hon. Mr. Barnard:*

Q. Would you suggest, Mr. Kelly, that the basis of negotiation should be on the values as they were, at the time of occupation, or the present day values?—A. We have two extreme views on that of course. I might say that the Indian department has officially stated that progress means nothing at all to the value of the aboriginal title.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Do you dispute that?—A. Yes, somewhat, we do. And once again I say that is a matter of negotiation, and if it cannot be negotiated, it is because of that that we thought the court decision would be a remedy. Then we would either gain our point, or we would lose out on it. That was the point, and that was the reason why we have pressed for a judicial decision of the matter. We realized the complications of it. Just as the Minister of the Interior said in Vancouver, it is a tremendously complicated affair; we realize that, and we cannot say that this matter can be settled by a mere wave of the hand.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Supposing the aboriginal title is not recognized? Suppose recognition is refused, what position do you take then?—A. Then the position that we would have to take would be this: that we are simply dependent people. Then we would have to accept from you, just as an act of grace, whatever you saw fit to give us. Now that is putting it in plain language. The Indians have no voice in the affairs of this country. They have not a solitary way of bringing anything before the Parliament of this country, except as we have done last year by petition, and it is a mighty hard thing. If we press for that, we are called agitators, simply agitators, trouble makers, when we try to get what we consider to be our rights. It is a mighty hard thing, and as I have said, it has taken us between forty and fifty years to get to where we are to-day. And, perhaps, if we are turned down now, if this Committee see fit to turn down what we are pressing for, it might be another century before a new generation will rise up and begin to press this claim. If this question is not settled, in a proper way on a sound basis, it will not be settled properly. Now, that is the point that we want to stress. I said to the Hon. Mr. Stevens last year, when he was Acting Minister of the Interior,—I think these are the words I used: "Why not keep unblemished the record of British fair dealing with native races? Why refuse to recognize the claim of certain tribes of Indians in one corner of the British Dominions, when it has been accorded to others in another part of the same Dominion."

[Rev. P. R. Kelly.]