

Government did the same; they instructed their agents to assure the Indians that their claims would be submitted to the Judicial Committee; and Sir Wilfrid Laurier gave them public assurance to the same effect. And he told a deputation, of which we were members, that courts existed for the settlement of just such differences as had arisen in British Columbia, that it was the part of good government to see that no portion of the population lay under a grievance, and that he would do all in his power to bring the question before the Judicial Committee. Forty years ago it would have been easy to settle the question. It is ten times harder now. It will be ten times harder still in ten years from this. There is no time to be lost in bringing the question to a final issue.

My third plea is drawn from the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada, which I have the honor to represent here. They feel strongly that this troublesome, perhaps even dangerous, question should be settled without delay. Under the best advice given them they are convinced that it can only be finally and satisfactorily settled by a reference to the Judicial Committee. They recommend that, before the matter of the reserves be proceeded with, the more fundamental question of Indian title be disposed of. And they are in full accord with the view that the work of the recently appointed Commission should be only one of investigation and recommendation and that its findings should only become operative when sanctioned by the two Governments which it represents.

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And the present juncture is a favorable one for the final settlement of the question. The resolve of the Indians of Naas River to submit their claim directly to His Majesty's Privy Council affords an easy method of settlement; the Government of Canada need only assent to the reference. The agreement between the two Governments for the settlement of the reserves naturally brings up, if it does not necessarily compel, the settlement of the larger question. And the Moral and Social Reform Council of Canada consider that the moral issues involved are more important than the financial or political ones. The Prophets, three thousand years ago, under divine inspiration, taught that justice exalts a nation, and the experience of all nations since then has proved the truth of the prophetic utterance. In recent years it is the settlement of great moral questions, even at great national sacrifice, that has redounded to the highest honor of England and the United States. It is the just and