

with it in a detailed way. You may make a general recommendation, and that is about as far as anybody can go; but there would still remain the determination of the form of machinery or the effective way of dealing with those different grievances that have been brought before you. The question has become acute, because of conditions that have arisen of late years. In the early days, that is, prior to Confederation, and during the earlier time of Confederation, although the question was quite pronounced all along, even after the date of the entrance of British Columbia into Confederation, it has become more and more acute. I think it was in 1887 that a large delegation came down from Fort Simpson to interview the Provincial government in Victoria. At that time they brought before the Government this fact, that they were not adequately provided for as far as land was concerned, and they became conscious of the fact that in days to come rights which they had inherited from time immemorial would be taken away from them. Even at that early date, forty years ago, they were conscious of that, and it was brought to the notice of the Provincial Government. About that time, when Reserve Commissioners went around and approached the Haida Tribe of the Queen Charlotte Islands, I heard this from the lips of those who were present asking them to state a certain area of land to be set apart for them with which they would be satisfied. The Chiefs who gathered in council together said this, "Why would we ask you to set lands apart for us. This territory is ours and it has been ours as far back as we can remember. Any time any other people claimed our lands we disputed their claim with force. Why are you coming here and asking us to say what area of land would satisfy us?" The Commissioners were treated courteously; they were always on the best of terms with those Commissioners. They told the Commissioners that they were not prepared to name any area because the whole area of land was theirs.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What commission was that?—A. I am not prepared to name any particular Commissioners, but it was the Reserve Commissioners who went around.

Q. That was one that was appointed in 1875 or 1876?—A. I would think about that time. That was their view. Gradually they have been hemmed in little by little until the things which they had enjoyed in the past have been taken away from them. I know it is the viewpoint taken here by some members of this Committee that because of the encroachment of civilization it is necessary to regulate things. We grant all that. I do not think anything should be allowed to go on without a certain amount of regulation. Nevertheless, we must recognize this also, that the people that you have been regulating things for are not up to your standard. These people were not in contact with civilization more than seventy-five years ago. I grant that on this eastern coast of the North American Continent the Indians have been in contact with civilization longer than we have been on the coast. You would ask those people to subscribe to the same regulations as you have made for yourself, and ask them to make a living under those conditions. I contend, gentlemen, that it is becoming harder and harder for them to come under that restraining hand and at the same time not being adequately brought forward to take their place among the body politic of this land.

*By Mr. Hay:*

Q. Does that apply to the younger generation as well as the older?—A. Generally, yes; there are a few exceptions always, but that applies to all the Indians. I stressed this to the present Minister of the Interior, and also the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, when they came to visit us on the coast. It was in view of that that we stressed that the Indians should receive intensive training, conditions making it necessary that if it is not done the time will soon come when they will lose out in the race for existence.