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## INDIANS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS IN CANADA

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I.—THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF THREE ARTICLES



HE committee which sat during the late session of Parliament at Ottawa investigating Indian affairs heard a good deal of evidence and discussed many matters of current and historical interest. The Indians of British Columbia and the Six Nations tribes, more particularly, have for some time been showing symptoms of unrest in respect of supposed grievances, and the Committee in question was appointed at the instance of Hon. Mr. Meighen, at that time Superintendent of Indian Affairs, so that the entire scope of the management of these affairs might be brought under review and that the Department might to some extent at least be relieved of the responsibility of policies of direction and control, in other words, that onus and responsibility might be divided with Parliament. Many representative Indians made

statements and they were also represented by counsel and others.

When I referred to the "unrest" among the Indians it must not be understood to convey the idea of its usual significance in that connection as applied to native tribes, say, of India, or Africa or even in Canada as exhibited in the Northwest at the time of the Riel rebellion, an unrest which usually precedes an uprising. Our Indians are not in the slightest degree in a rebellious mood, and not one of them has a thought of going on the warpath. Two or three of the tribes of Northern British Columbia have been in a surly mood, but, of course, they realize that any demonstration of force would be a futile and dangerous course to pursue. The policy of the Canadian Government towards the Indians since assuming their guardianship in 1860 has followed the well-known traditions of the Home authorities, one of tender solici-