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## RETURN

To an Address of the Legislative Assembly praying for copies of all correspondence relating to Indian affairs, between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, since the beginning of 1874.

By Command.

JOHN ASH,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

*Provincial Secretary's Office,  
8th April, 1875.*

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*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Lieutenant-Governor.*

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
June 21st, 1873.

SIR,—I have to address Your Honor in respect to the urgent necessity of adjusting existing Indian Reserves—extending them where required, and of setting apart Indian lands for tribes not now provided for—and should the arrangement proposed by the Dominion Government be satisfactory to the Government of the Province, that I am now ready to proceed with the necessary surveys.

I am informed at different places, just visited by me, that in some instances great injustice has been done the Indians in not reserving sufficient land for their use, and in some cases, such as Comox, Chemainus, &c., land actually occupied by Indians as potatoe patches, &c., has been pre-empted by white settlers and certificates granted.

From these causes abundant discontent prevails among Indians, both on the Island and Mainland, and I regard it as a matter of urgent and paramount importance, not only to the future peaceful settlement of the Province by whites but as a matter of justice to the Indians themselves, that their complaints should be adjusted and reserves also made for them in those parts of the Province where they do not at present exist.

I have also the honor to enclose a copy of an Order in Council relating to these Indian lands, empowering me to confer with the Local Government, and I shall be glad if Your Honor will take such steps in regard to the same as may be deemed expedient.

I beg further to enclose a letter received by me from Mr. Ld. Loewenberg, who has been acting as agent and collector for the Songhees Reserve, and shall feel obliged if Your Honor will cause the same to be transmitted to the Honorable the Provincial Secretary, with a view to my obtaining the papers in question, or any others in possession of the Government relating to the Indian affairs of the Province.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Commissioner.*

*Excerpt from a Copy of the Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council,  
approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 21st March,  
1873.*

The Committee have had before them a memorandum from the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, submitting a letter from I. W. Powell, Esquire, Commissioner at Victoria, British Columbia, relative to difficulties apprehended with Indians at Alberni.

The Deputy Superintendent states that the apprehended trouble appears to arise (as shown by correspondence, copies of which the Superintendent has furnished) in consequence of the sale of lands in that locality having been made by the Local Govern-

ment to Messieurs Anderson & Company, and a contention on the part of two settlers who had attempted to pre-empt lands at that place.

That it would seem no reservation for the Indians had been made there, nor other satisfactory arrangements entered into with them, &c., &c., &c.

That this and other communications transmitted by Mr. Superintendent Powell prove the absolute necessity of his being empowered to confer with the Local Government, with a view to sufficient reserves on a liberal and just scale being set apart and marked off in survey for the various bands of the Province.

The Deputy Superintendent-General submits, therefore, that authority be at once given to Mr. Powell, to confer with the Local Government in regard to Indian Reserves already set apart which may require to be extended and the outlines marked out in survey. Also for the setting apart such additional reserves as in his judgment he may deem to be important, for the purpose of fulfilling the just expectations of those Indians; and he accordingly suggests that each family be assigned a location of eighty acres of land of average quality, which shall remain permanently the property of the family for whose benefit it is allotted.

On the recommendation of the Honorable the Secretary of State for the Provinces, the Committee advise that the suggestions submitted in the foregoing memorandum of the Deputy Superintendent be approved and acted on.

Certified,

(Signed)

W. A. HIMSWORTH,  
Clerk, Privy Council.

*Mr. Ld. Loewenberg to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

VICTORIA, B. C.,  
June 20th, 1873.

SIR,—Amongst the papers which you hold in the affairs of the Indian Reserve are certain documents and correspondence missing, which are necessary for you to have in order to find out on whom notices were served for the surrender and renewal of leases to the said reserve. These notices were served at the time when His Excellency the Governor was yet Commissioner of Lands and Works, and I have no copies thereof and am without data. I have reason to believe that those papers are in the Office of Lands and Works. It is necessary for me, in order to make arrangements with the applicant for a lease to a part of the Indian Reserve, to have these papers, and especially the list of the parties to whom notices had been served.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

LD. LOEWENBERG.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the 25th day of July, 1873.*

The Committee have had under consideration the letter of I. W. Powell, Esquire, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in this Province, dated 21st June, 1873, and covering an excerpt from an Order in Council of the Dominion Government, which matters have been referred to them by Your Excellency.

The letter of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs urges the adjustment of existing Indian Reserves, their extension where requisite, and the setting apart of Indian lands for tribes not now provided for. The Order in Council of the Dominion Government authorizes the Superintendent to make the application, and specifies that it is advisable that to each Indian family should be assigned a location of eighty acres of land of average quality.

The Committee remark that this quantity is greatly in excess of the grants considered sufficient by previous Governments of British Columbia, and recommend that throughout the Province Indian Reserves should not exceed a quantity of twenty acres of land for each head of a family of five persons.

Certified,

(Signed)

W. J. ARMSTRONG,  
Clerk, Executive Council.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
28th July, 1873.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st June, addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of Indian Reserves, and with reference to that part which more particularly refers to the acreage allowed to each family, I am to acquaint you that the Provincial Government is unable to concur in the views expressed in the Order in Council, of which you enclose a copy, to the effect that 80 acres should be assigned to each family. This quantity is greatly in excess of what has been found to be sufficient by previous Governments, and the Government has decided that throughout the Province the land to be reserved for Indians, shall not exceed 20 acres of land for each head of a family of five persons.

I have the honor therefore to notify you, that all future reserves for Indians will be adjusted on the basis of twenty acres of land for each head of a family of five persons.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Victoria, July 29th, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., acquainting me with the desire of the Provincial Government, that all future Reserves for Indians should be "adjusted on the basis of twenty acres of land for each head of a family of five persons."

I am not aware that any restriction of the kind is customary in the other Provinces of the Dominion, and, before communicating the same to the Department at Ottawa, may I beg of you to inform me as to whether it is intended to restrict the proposed grant of twenty acres to a family "of five persons," and, if so, the particular quantity of land which may be reserved for a family of two, three, four, six or more persons.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
1st August, 1873.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, requesting that you might be informed as to whether it is intended to restrict the proposed grant of 20 acres to a family of five persons, (the decision of the Provincial Government as to the extent of Indian Reserves, as communicated to you in a letter from this Department of the 28th ultimo,) and if so, the particular quantity of land which may be reserved for a family of two, three, four, six or more persons, I am directed to acquaint you that the intention of the Government in regard to Indian Reserves is as follows: That to each five persons there should be allotted twenty acres of land.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Attorney-General Walkem to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
26th December, 1873.

SIR,—As I am aware that your attention has been drawn to the Cache Creek telegram, reported in the *Dominion Herald*, stating that the Indians had assumed a hostile attitude to the Whites, I need not of course further refer to its substance.

I feel it my duty, however, to state that the matter is of a character too serious to be overlooked. From enquiries I have made, I find that one Mr. Ranald McDonald, who lives near Cache Creek, has informed Mr. Barnston by letter, that the real cause of the discontent is the fact that you have not paid them a visit, and that they feel that they have been neglected by the Indian Department. Coming from such a source, I believe the information to be correct, and, under the circumstances, permit me to say that an immediate personal visit by you is due to the Whites as well as to the Indians, as the threatened danger may thus be easily averted, without expense or—the still more serious contingency—loss of life. I take the liberty of pressing this suggestion upon your attention at once, as the prevention by such simple means is far more desirable than any future remedy which may be devised to meet losses which it may be beyond human power to repair or redress.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKER,  
*Attorney-General.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Attorney-General.*

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA,  
29th December, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 26th inst., respecting threatened Indian troubles at Cache Creek, and calling my attention to a letter received by Mr. Barnston from one Ranald McDonald. In reply I have to state that it is my intention to proceed to New Westminster to-morrow morning (should I receive no telegram to the contrary during the day), and, if upon further enquiry, I find that the report has any reliable basis, my journey will be extended to Cache Creek at once. At the same time, you will permit me to doubt the correctness of the authority you quote, especially since there are so many gentlemen lately from the district in question, at present in this city, who can give more valued evidence. From all I can learn, the fear that they will lose their land and not be sufficiently provided for in this respect, is the real cause of disturbance if, indeed, there be any among the Indians.

May I beg to bring to your notice a letter addressed by me to the Honorable Provincial Secretary, on Saturday, on the subject of these lands, and to solicit the action of the Government thereon, if possible, at once. Again I have to express the hope that no extensive leases of grazing lands, in the vicinity of Indian habitations, will be given by the Government until their reserves are fixed, and, I assure you, the most fruitful source of anxiety or fear of injustice on their part will be avoided.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA,  
27th December, 1873.

SIR,—In view of a possible visit to Cache Creek and other Indians, among whom there are rumors which have reached me of threatened trouble, I have the honor to request that the quantity of land to be reserved for Indians east of the Cascades should be forty acres for each Indian family, instead of twenty, as agreed upon.

My reason for applying for the increased quantity is, that the interior Indians are nearly all possessed of horses and cattle, and I am convinced that twenty acres would not be found to be sufficient.

Should a personal inspection prove the correctness of my impression on this matter, it would be both highly important and practical in quieting all their fears of future injustice, if I could promise that an additional quantity of land would be laid aside for the grazing purposes of each tribe.

I might remind you that this principle is recognized in the present pre-emption law for white settlers, where 320 acres are allowed each individual east of the Cascades and 160 acres west of the same.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
29th December, 1873.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you with reference to your letter of the 27th inst., conveying a suggestion that the grant to a native family should be increased on the east side of the Cascade Range to from twenty to forty acres of land, that large reserves of land have already been made in these districts.

The subject, however, will receive the mature consideration of the Government, meanwhile I have to request you will be good enough to confer with the Attorney-General on the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*The Attorney-General to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
December 29th, 1873.

SIR,—Your letter, of the 27th inst., to the Honorable Provincial Secretary, asking on behalf of the Indians east of the Cascade Range, for tracts of forty instead of twenty acres of land as a bonus to each family, has been referred to me with instructions from the Committee of Council to confer with you upon the subject.

I called at your office and at your dwelling about 2½ p. m. to-day, but was not fortunate enough to find you.

I have since received your letter of this date, informing me of your determination to proceed to-morrow by steamer to New Westminster, and thence to Cache Creek (should you receive no replies to your telegrams), to confer with the Indians of the interior. Permit me to say that I feel convinced that you have acted wisely in this serious matter. I would, however, suggest that no matter what peaceful assurances you may receive by telegraph that it would be better to pay the Indians a visit than to stop short at New Westminster.

The Indians are certainly entitled to such a small piece of attention, accomplished too at such small expense, though it must be admitted that you cannot but encounter personal discomfort by reason of the inclemency of the weather.

As to the extra twenty acres asked for by you, as above stated, I have the honor to draw your attention to the list of, really in some instances, enormous, and in all cases, sufficient reserves, already laid aside for the Indians residing near Cache Creek, Kamloops, Okanagan, Shuswap, and other places. They cannot be, and as I have been credibly informed are not, dissatisfied with the amount of land allotted to them. On the contrary, you will, after looking at your plans copied from the official records, agree with me that many of the reserves must be cut down, being out of all proportion to the strength of the tribes to which they have been respectively granted in days gone by, when land in the vicinity referred to seems to have been considered of little value.

When the reserves near Cache Creek, and some of the other places mentioned, were set apart, a conference was held with each of the Chiefs before any decision was arrived at. Their views were ascertained and their wishes were fully consulted. A parchment sketch of each reserve, enclosed in a tin case, was handed to them, and they expressed themselves entirely satisfied. The tribes now dread the idea of being placed upon and confined to these reserves, as they have ascertained that the Indian Department intend, if possible, to carry out such a course.

The Indians speak freely upon the subject, and intimate their intention of resisting such a step. This is the cause of their dissatisfaction, and they wish to see you about it.

They are fully aware of your appointment and position, and to my personal knowledge they have expected a visit from you for nearly eight months back.

They, moreover, expect the usual presents from you as the representative of the great Chief, and in this I would respectfully suggest that you do not disappoint them. A few hundred dollars' worth of blankets, clothing, food, &c., would be well laid out if given to them.

I trust that you will excuse me for thus trespassing upon questions of an official character of which you must necessarily possess a more intimate knowledge than I do.

It is only a suggestion which I venture to make, as it might be overlooked in the hurry of an unexpected visit. I consider that whether the Indians are peaceably disposed or not that presents should be given, especially as the conference proposed by you is the first of its kind, and is one which they should always recollect with pleasure.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEO. A. WALKEM,

*Attorney-General.*

P. S.—Having seen you upon the subject of the foregoing, and as Mr. DeCosmos stated that there would be no difficulty in granting any extra lands to the Indians, if absolutely necessary, and as your views and mine coincide as to a just treatment of the Indians, I take the responsibility of stating that you may tell the Indians that where the lands occupied by them are only suitable for grazing purposes and are inadequate to meet their wants, that twenty acres more than the twenty now conceded, should be given to each Indian family requiring them for pastoral use, regard, of course, being had in the disposition of the lands to the average acreage per family of all the reserves hitherto granted or hereafter added.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to Attorney-General Walkem.*

INDIAN OFFICE,

Victoria, 12th January, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that owing to further telegrams which have been transmitted through the press, respecting the rumor of threatened Indian attack upon the white settlers of the interior and your own wishes in regard to the same, I have determined upon proceeding at once to Cache Creek and Kamloops for the purpose of instituting personal inquiry into alleged grievances of the Natives, and if possible to allay for the present any hostile feeling existing on account of them. In addition to my own opinions upon this subject, as conveyed in my letter of the 27th ult, and which you were good enough to consider favorably for the purpose intended, I feel it my duty to report to you that among the assigned causes of discontent of the Indians, is the driving their cattle off unfenced lands or those held under pastoral lease. One case has been reported to me of a judicial decision, in which an Indian was mulcted in comparatively large damages for alleged trespass upon lands which were not fenced, but held under a lease from the Government for pastoral purposes, a case which I am told has been taken up by many other Indians, and is said to form one of the prominent grievances for adjustment now. It would, perhaps, be invidious for me to reflect upon what certainly seems an injustice, but you will. I am sure, agree with me as to the necessity of ascertaining your opinion regarding the legality of such an issue, or in other words, whether cattle grazing upon unfenced lands, belonging to other than the holder thereof, can be subject to the penalties of trespass?

If these instances of grievance are correct, it is highly important in undertaking what may be a most grave and responsible mission, that I should be fortified by correct information upon all points likely to arise in the settlement of any complaint made by the Indians. If, on the other hand, the leaseholder of an extensive tract of land is justified by law, in driving Indian cattle off any unfenced portion and having the owner fined for damages, I fail at present to see how lasting disaffection is to be prevented, unless, indeed, a far more liberal treatment is pursued towards them than the terms of Confederation would seem to justify on the part of the Dominion Government, or by the immediate passage or enactment of some local Statute which would modify if not change altogether the existing pastoral land law which permits such apparent injustice. As I intend leaving early on Wednesday morning, may I beg that you will be good enough to favor me with a reply some time to-morrow.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

I. W. POWELL,

*Indian Commissioner.*

*The Attorney-General to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
January 13th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, informing me that you intended to proceed to Cache Creek and Kamloops to investigate the causes of the Indian disturbance in that vicinity.

In reply to your query as to whether a stranger who permits his cattle to run upon pastoral lands under lease is liable to the lessee as a trespasser, I have to refer you to Section 38 of the "Land Ordinance, 1870," which lays down the proposition as law that any lessee from the Crown can maintain ejectment or trespass in the same manner as if he were owner of the land referred to, and "either party may refer the cause of action to the Stipendiary Magistrate of the District, wherein the land lies, who may proceed summarily," &c.

No Justice of the Peace or Magistrate, except he be of the Stipendiary class, has power to deal with such cases.

By the Common Law of England, which is in force here, the proprietors or occupiers of land are not obliged to fence their lands. The owners of cattle or other animals are, by the same law, bound to see that they do no damage and that they commit no trespass.

Indians are subject to the same laws as whites. Your observations upon the subject, will, I need hardly assure you, receive the attention of the Government.

Will you be good enough to take a note of and report all matters of grievance, which may be brought under your notice in the upper country.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM,  
*Attorney-General.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA.  
INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA, May 15th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for the information of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, a copy of an Order in Council, dated March 1st, 1874, respecting the Indian Reserves of this Province.

With a view of carrying out the instructions conveyed in the said Order with as little delay as possible, and especially taking advantage of the present season for surveying the proposed allotment of Indian Reserves, I should be glad if the same could be submitted at once to the consideration of the Government.

The vastly increased expense of dividing a Reserve into *four* acre allotments, in addition to the great difficulty of satisfying the just requirements of the Indians by allotting "20 acres to each five persons," strongly urges me to hope that the wish expressed in the eighth Section of the enclosed Order in Council, may meet with and have the favorable consideration of the Government. Again, I do not think that the granting of twenty acres to *each head* of an Indian family, will make any perceptible difference in the *aggregate* quantity of land reserved for the whole Indian population.

I have the honor, also, to recall attention to your letter of the 29th December, and to the correspondence which subsequently followed between the Honorable the Attorney-General and myself.

I propose to proceed at once to Kamloops; and if the agreement between the Attorney-General and myself in making the grant East of the Cascades forty acres instead of twenty, could be adopted by the Government, I feel sure of making my intended visit to this lately disturbed district not only one of great satisfaction to the Indians themselves, but to the settlers, in assuring them of future peace and protection.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 24th April, 1874.*

The Committee of Council have had under consideration the Memorandum, dated 1st April, 1874, from the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, having reference to the Order in Council of the 21st March, 1873, and the correspondence arising out of that Order respecting the Indian Reserves in British Columbia, and they respectfully submit their concurrence in the several recommendations submitted in the said Memorandum, and advise that the same be approved and adopted.

Certified,  
(Signed) W. A. HIMSWORTH.

*British Columbia Reserves.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
March 1st, 1874.

The undersigned has had under his consideration the Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, under date the 21st March, 1873, and the subsequent correspondence arising out of that Order in reference to the Indian Reserves in British Columbia.

By the 13th Article of the Terms of Union, between Canada and British Columbia, the Indian Reserves in British Columbia were transferred to the Dominion Government and are now under the control of this Department.

From the official and other information in possession of the undersigned, it is clear that the dissatisfaction now existing among the Indians in British Columbia, arises to a great extent, out of the present state of the Reserves, and if prompt measures be taken to satisfy the requirements of the Indians on this head a fruitful source of dissatisfaction will have been removed. By the Order in Council above referred to, it is provided among other things, that each Indian family should be assigned 80 acres of land of average quality to remain permanently the property of such family.

The local Government of British Columbia has positively declined to grant such an extent of land for the use of the Indians, as being far in excess of the quantity previously allowed the Indians by the local Government, and under the Terms of Union the local Government are only bound "to give tracts of land of such extent as had hitherto been the practice of the local Government to appropriate for that purpose,"—10 acres for every family of five persons. The Government of British Columbia, however, on the representation of Mr. Commissioner Powell, consented to double this amount and to appropriate 20 acres of land to every five persons. This offer Mr. Powell was authorized to accept, while at the same time he was urged to obtain, if possible, double that quantity for the Indians to the East of the Cascade Range, in accordance with the general usage in British Columbia of granting a double allowance to the white settlers East of the said range.

In view of the foregoing circumstances it is recommended:—

1st. That the paragraph in the Order in Council above referred to, appropriating 80 acres of land to each Indian family of five persons be rescinded, and that it be provided that only 20 acres be allotted to five persons.

2nd. That, whenever it is so desired by a majority of Indians at any Reserve, such Reserve shall be divided into suitable allotments on the basis of 20 acres to each five persons in the said band, and the holder of every such allotment shall be placed in possession thereof, by some formal instrument to be given him by the Commissioner.

3rd. Whenever any Reserve does not contain sufficient land to give 20 acres to each five in the band of Indians to which such Reserve has been apportioned, then land in the immediate vicinity, or as near thereto as possible, should be obtained from the Local Government for the individual, not so provided for.

4th. Whenever, in any part of the Province no Reserves of land have been made for the Indians, and there are any white settlers or any immediate prospect of such, application should be made to the Local Government, for the required number of acres to be there reserved for the Indians.



5th. Great care should be taken that the Indians, especially those inhabiting the Coast, should not be disturbed in the enjoyment of their customary fishing grounds, which should be reserved for them previous to white settlement in the immediate vicinity of such localities.

6th. The Commissioner should be instructed to suggest such measures as he may think necessary to prevent difficulties among the Indians resident in pastoral districts, arising from the unfenced condition of extensive lands leased to white men for grazing purposes.

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8th. In view of the difficulty and expense of making the allotment of the surveys on the basis of twenty acres to each five persons, and taking into consideration the very large and unlooked for expenditure which the general administration of Indian Affairs in British Columbia is about to entail upon the Dominion Government, the undersigned would recommend that the Indian Commissioner be authorized to press strongly upon the Local Government the duty of co-operating in every way with the Dominion Government in pacifying the Indian population of the Province, and satisfying their reasonable demands; and as the amount of land which they now propose to allot to the Indians is very small, that he be particularly requested to urge the Local Government to allocate twenty acres of land to every Indian, *being a head of a family*, without reference to the number of persons in the family.

(Signed) D. LAIRD.

\* MEMO—Clause 7th refers to amount of money granted for immediate prosecution of proposed surveys.

(Initialed) I. W. P.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
21st July, 1874.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I have now the honor to forward for your information, copy of an Order in Council on the subject of the Indian Reserves.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Executive Council, approved by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, on the 15th day of June, 1874.*

On a Memorandum of the 13th day of June, 1874, from the Honorable Attorney-General, reporting that application has been made by the Indian Department to vary an Order in Council, dated the 25th July, 1873, which allots twenty acres of land to each head of an Indian family of five persons, by striking out the three last words, viz.: "five persons," so that the allotment shall read "twenty acres of land to each head of an Indian family," the Committee advise that the recommendation be approved.

(Signed) GEO. A. WALKEM,  
*President Executive Council.*

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA,  
August 5th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for your consideration, copy of a Petition from the Indian Chiefs of the Fraser River and surrounding country, on matters relating to their land Reserves.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*Peter Ayessik to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

NEW WESTMINSTER,  
July 14th, 1874.

SIR,—Having been, along with some others, commissioned by the Chiefs to present our common petition to you, we have come down to New Westminster yesterday, and after consultation, we came to the conclusion to send the petition by mail.

You have told Alexis and myself not to go down till you send notice.

We expect to hear from you through Rev. Father Durieu, at New Westminster.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed)

PETER AYESSIK,  
Chief of Hope.

*To the Indian Commissioner for the Province of British Columbia:—*

The Petition of the undersigned, Chiefs of Douglas Portage, of Lower Fraser, and of the other tribes on the seashore of the mainland to Bute Inlet, humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioners view with a great anxiety the standing question of the quantity of land to be reserved for the use of each Indian family.

2. That we are fully aware that the Government of Canada has always taken good care of the Indians, and treated them liberally, allowing more than one hundred acres per family; and we have been at a loss to understand the views of the Local Government of British Columbia, in curtailing our land so much as to leave in many instances but few acres of land per family.

3. Our hearts have been wounded by the arbitrary way the Local Government of British Columbia have dealt with us in locating and dividing our Reserves. Chamiel, ten miles below Hope, is allowed 488 acres of good land for the use of twenty families: at the rate of 24 acres per family; Popkum, eighteen miles below Hope, is allowed 369 acres of good land for the use of four families: at the rate of 90 acres per family; Cheam, twenty miles below Hope, is allowed 375 acres of bad, dry, and mountainous land for the use of twenty-seven families: at the rate of 13 acres per family; Yuk-yuk-yoose, on Chilliwack River, with a population of seven families, is allowed 42 acres: 5 acres per family; Sumass, (at the junction of Sumass River and Fraser) with a population of seventeen families, is allowed 43 acres of meadow for their hay, and 32 acres of dry land; Keatsy, numbering more than one hundred inhabitants, is allowed 108 acres of land. Langley and Hope have not yet got land secured to them, and white men are encroaching on them on all sides.

4. For many years we have been complaining of the land left us being too small. We have laid our complaints before Government officials nearest to us: they sent us to some others; so we had no redress up to the present; and we have felt like men trampled on, and are commencing to believe that the aim of the white men is to exterminate us as soon as they can, although we have been always quiet, obedient, kind, and friendly to the whites.

5. Discouragement and depression have come upon our people. Many of them have given up the cultivation of land, because our gardens have not been protected against the encroachments of the whites. Some of our best men have been deprived of the land they had broken and cultivated with long and hard labor, a white man enclosing it in his claim, and no compensation given. Some of our most enterprising men have lost a part of their cattle, because white men had taken the place where those cattle were grazing, and no other place left but the thickly timbered land, where they die fast. Some of our people now are obliged to cut rushes along the bank of the river with their knives during the Winter, to feed their cattle.

6. We are now obliged to clear heavy timbered land, all prairies having been taken from us by white men. We see our white neighbors cultivate wheat, peas, &c., and raise large stocks of cattle on our pasture lands, and we are giving them our money to buy the flour manufactured from the wheat they have grown on same prairies.

7. We are not lazy and roaming-about people, as we used to be. We have worked hard and a long time to spare money to buy agricultural implements, cattle, horses, &c., as nobody has given us assistance. We could point out many of our people who have

those past years bought with their own money ploughs, harrows, yokes of oxen, and horses; and now, with your kind assistance, we have a bright hope to enter into the path of civilization.

8. We consider that 80 acres per family is absolutely necessary for our support, and for the future welfare of our children. We declare that 20 or 30 acres of land per family will not give satisfaction, but will create ill feelings, irritation amongst our people, and we cannot say what will be the consequence.

9. That, in case you cannot obtain from the Local Government the object of our petition, we humbly pray that this our petition be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Provinces, Ottawa.

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray that you may may take this our petition into consideration, and see that justice be done us, and allow each family the quantity of land we ask for.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) PETER AYESSIK, Chief of Hope.  
ALEXIS, " Cheam.

## DOUGLAS PORTAGE.

Joseph,	Chief of Douglas	James,	Chief of Halouk
Pierre,	" Skatton	Kelly,	" Koulpaoulten
Isidore,	" Tsatsewaklen	Michael,	" Kwatken
Kwitken,	" Kmanks	James Noosa,	" Kaet
Jean,	" Skechin	George,	" Stloos
Skenla,	" Sammakwan	Paul,	" Chalal
Jean,	" Kwebouloten	Ignace,	" Tsileks
Shiklak,	" Lalacken	Jean Baptiste,	" Lillooet
Jean Akwm,	" Pemberton		

## LOWER FRASER.

Swallasset,	Chief of Keatsy	Etienne,	Chief of Squahla
Celestin,	" Langley	Captain John,	" Scowitz
Basile,	" Whanock	Bob,	" Chehalis
George,	" Matsqui	Charley,	" Squalits
Ketakalem,	" Sumass	Auguste,	" Chamiel
Sam,	" Lahkawa	Bernard,	" Eouaous
Jalempkalen,	" Squeeam	Lucien,	" Ratlatl
Bill,	" Clatwass	Louis,	" Teakolos
Tsatselten,	" Nincoomen	Paul,	" Skokom
Modeste,	" Schuye	Nkatemken,	" Skazze
Joseph,	" Kokwapilt	Whalla,	" Boston Bar
Tahoulacha,	" Yuk-yuk-y-yoose		

## COAST INDIANS.

Joseph,	Chief of Ikwayakken	Paul,	Chief of Kahachem
Henry,	" Tsaktsak	Joseph,	" Tsouai
Paul,	" Ekwapsen	Henry,	" Kouahmen
Pierre,	" Church Village	Auguste,	" Kackake
George,	" Halta	Thomas,	" Tokou
Henry,	" Skoulap	Charley,	" Kwastanahen
Andrie,	" Techossem	William,	" Bute Inlet

I hereby testify that the above mentioned Chiefs met together in my presence, and the above petition is the true expression of their feeling and of their wishes.

(Signed) PETER AYESSIK,  
Chief of Hope.

New Westminster, July 14th, 1874.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
11th August, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, forwarding for my consideration copy of a petition from the Indian Chiefs of the Fraser, and in reply I would recommend you to carry out the prayer of the said petition by forwarding the same to the Secretary of State for Canada.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE,

Victoria, August 15th, 1874.

SIR,—Pursuant to the arrangement of granting 20 acres of land to every head of an Indian family in British Columbia, I had the honor of applying to the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for land to make up deficiency in the present reserves of Musqueam and Tsowassen. The Honorable Chief Commissioner informed me, in reply (10th August) that he is unable to advise the extension of *present* reservations until positively informed “that you are authorized to reduce as well as increase such reservations, and that you are prepared, on behalf of the Dominion Government, to guarantee that the Indians will agree quietly to reduction, if the Provincial Government agree to an increase,”

As many of the present reserves do not contain *five* acres of land to each head of a family, the injustice with which Indians having such reserves would be treated in case they were not extended, and the serious complications which would at once be consequent upon such treatment are so great, that I sincerely trust the interpretation seemingly conveyed in the Honorable Chief Commissioner’s letter, of confining the grant to new reserves, is not that intended by the Government in lieu of *all* reserves containing 20 acres to every head of a native family.

As to the reduction alluded to, according to the Order in Council I had the honor of transmitting on the 15th of May, and the reply of the Local Government, 15th of June, I imagined the Dominion Government could not claim more than the acreage agreed upon in any reserve, and therefore in cases where the quantity of land exceeded 20 acres to each Indian family, such excess would no longer be a part of any reserve, unless some special arrangement were made to the contrary.

Agreeably to such an understanding, and with a view of promoting peace among Indians, I have been authorized, at considerable expense, to survey all reserves, with a view to allotment on the basis agreed upon; and to promise them that this arrangement would be faithfully carried out.

Surveyors are now at work in Cowichan, and on Fraser River reserves, and were any delay to take place in granting me lands to make good deficient reserves, not only would valuable time and money be wasted, but great uneasiness among Indians would be at once engendered. I therefore trust that I may be authorized to obtain land in instances of deficiency as they arise, upon my furnishing the Government with a correct census of the number of heads of families, and the number of acres therefore required. On my part, I will at once notify you of excess in any reserve which may be surveyed for allotment. This was the basis of my agreement with the Honorable the Attorney-General, and I beg to append a copy of his telegram sent in order to allow me to *promise the same to the Indians at any official visitation.*

It would be too great an undertaking on my part to guarantee quietude on the part of the Indians generally, because, throughout the Interior, from whence I have just returned, where Indians possess many horses and cattle, and *have no grazing lands*, they consider 20 acres to each head altogether insufficient.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*Telegram.*

VICTORIA, 12th June, 1874.

*To Dr. Powell, Lytton.*

Twenty acres to each head of Indian family granted on condition agreed; could not send sooner. Forty rejected.

(Signed) G. A. WALKER.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
2nd September, 1874.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 15th ultimo, on the subject of extending present Indian Reserves, in which you mention, that pursuant to the arrangement of granting 20 acres of land to every head of an Indian family in British Columbia, you had applied to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for land to make up deficiencies in the present Reserves of Musqueam and Tsowassan, and that that officer had acquainted you in reply that he was unable to advise the extension of present Reservations; I have the honor to refer you to my letter of the 28th July, 1873, in which you are notified that all future Reserves for Indians will be adjusted on the basis of 20 acres of land for each head of a family of five persons, and from which you will perceive that the Chief Commissioner in reply, was only carrying out the Order in Council on which my letter was based. The question of the extension of present Reserves was not touched upon in the above Order in Council, but on the return of the Lieutenant-Governor the subject will be fully considered and the views of the Government thereon definitely conveyed to you.

With reference to your offer to furnish correct census of the number of heads of families, I have to remark that before proceeding to make any survey of Indian Reserves it would appear most desirable that you should furnish the Chief Commissioner with a correct census of the native population of the Province, or at least of the district proposed to be surveyed. The Province having been previously arranged by you into convenient districts for this purpose. Such census should convey the number of men, women, and children, and the number of heads of families should be exactly ascertained.

With regard to Reserves not yet made, it would be very desirable that before they are located you should point out if they are in a block (the requisite number of acres being therein contained,) or whether it is proposed to reserve small tracts here and there in different directions. With reference to your remarks as to the quietude of the Indians, I desire to point out to you that it is incumbent on the Government of the Province to preserve peace and order equally among the natives as among the white population.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA,  
September 2nd, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, in answer to mine of the 15th ult., and in reply, to state that, in view of the trouble which would at once be created among the Indians should it be fully decided by the Provincial Government that the proposed quantity of twenty acres to each family is not to apply to those having claim to present Reserves, I shall anxiously await the receipt of the communication you propose to furnish me, on the return of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
Indian Commissioner.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
21st September, 1874.

SIR,—With reference to the application from your Department, on the subject of the extension of certain existing Indian Reservations, I have the honor to acquaint you that the information respecting Indian affairs, for which you have been asked by the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, must be given before an answer can be returned by the Government.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE, VICTORIA,  
September 28th, 1874.

SIR,—Referring to your letters of the 2nd and 21st September, I have the honor to state for the information of the Government, that I have called in the two survey parties, who have been engaged in surveying Reserves here and on the mainland. I also regret to state, that I have not a doubt of the dissatisfaction of Indians, which will follow delay in adjusting all Reserves upon the basis (I thought previous to your letter of the 2nd inst.) mutually understood and agreed upon; to avoid which, and to put an end to all disputes between Indians and white settlers, these surveys for the purpose of allotting to each Indian twenty acres of land, have been undertaken by the Dominion Government.

In respect to your letter of the 21st inst., I should be glad to furnish any information in my power to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, in addition to that fully conveyed in my letter to him on the 7th ultimo, although I am at a loss to understand any connection "information" therein alluded to may have with the enquiries contained in my letter of the 15th ult., and the enclosure of Mr. Moffatt, to yourself, of the 3rd instant.

I regarded the manner of taking the census, etc., as a mere question of detail; and as I informed the Chief Commissioner, in my personal conference with him, I should be glad to have it subscribed to as correct, under oath, or taken in any way satisfactory to the Government: my great desire being to settle these land questions for the Indians with the least possible delay, and put an end to anxiety which I know exists among white settlers of the interior, on account of anticipated troubles with Indians, who are dissatisfied with their present Reserves.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
28th September, 1874.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 15th ultimo, on the subject of the interpretation to be given to the Order in Council regulating the extent of the Reservations to be made wherever necessary throughout the Province for Indian purposes, I have now the honor to state that the said order was not intended to affect or unsettle Reservations already established, but that its operation is altogether confined to the cases in which at the time of Confederation, aboriginal tribes or communities were not provided with lands set apart for their separate and exclusive use.

I am, however, authorised to state that the Government will consider any special claim made by you on behalf of an Indian community, where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works that the circumstances warrant a departure from the general principle laid down in the said Order in Council.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

P. S.—I take this opportunity of calling your attention to the fact that the acknowledgment made by you in previous correspondence, that existing Indian Reserves do not in some cases allow of 20 acres of land being allotted to each head of a family, is a proof that the Provincial Government in agreeing to furnish 20 acres in future, has been more liberal than it was called upon to be by the Terms of Union, which stipulate that tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed by the local Government to the Dominion Government in trust, for the use and benefit of the Indians, on application of the Dominion Government.

(Initialed) J. A.

*Mr. Lenihan to the Provincial Secretary.*

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA,  
October 8th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the copy of a letter of the Rev. Father Grandidier, of Okanagan Mission in this Province, on the subject of Indian affairs, and addressed to the Editor of the *Victoria Standard*, also the copy of a letter of the Right Rev. Bishop D. Herbonez of British Columbia, to myself, referring to the same.

I consider the subject of these documents one of such vital importance, as to call for immediate and careful consideration from the Provincial Government, emanating as they do from two gentlemen of such eminence, whose positions afford them the greatest possible facilities for acquiring the most thorough and correct knowledge of the subject upon which they write. The information possessed by those gentlemen is derived from a long and close intercourse with the Indians of this Province, which entitles them to speak in their behalf, and, I feel assured their views will receive at the hands of the Government that careful attention which the importance of the subject demands.

I believe the Government will agree with me in the opinion, that the cause of the Indians is very fully, justly, and ably stated by the Rev. Father Grandidier. The arguments adduced by the Rev. gentleman appear to me so convincing, that I cannot conceive how the Government can hesitate for a moment in conceding to the Indians demands so just and reasonable.

It is needless for me to inform the Government of British Columbia of the deep and earnest solicitude with which the Dominion Government regard all that concerns the well-being and happiness of our Indian fellow subjects. I may, however, be permitted to state for the information of the Provincial Government, that the Dominion Government stands ready to render every assistance in its power, to improve the material and social condition of the Indians of this Province, relying with the fullest confidence upon receiving the cordial and hearty assistance and co-operation of the Government of British Columbia in the furtherance of these very important interests.

No doubt the Government is aware that liberal grants were voted at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, to assist and encourage the Indians of this Province to engage in agricultural pursuits, as also for the promotion of the education of Indian children. I have reason to know that these grants will be still further augmented in future, as the requirements of the Indians may demand.

It is a source of just pride and congratulation to every true and loyal subject of our beloved Sovereign Queen Victoria, to be able to point to the success which has crowned Her wise and benignant rule of Her Indian subjects.

As the humble servant, and in the name, of the Dominion of Canada, I appeal with confidence to the wisdom, the liberality, and patriotism of the Government of British Columbia, to deal with this grave question in such a manner as will hereafter redound to its honor, and shed fresh glory and lustre on the British Crown.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is aware of the authority under which I write. I trust it may be sufficient to entitle me to the privilege of addressing the Government of British Columbia.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JAMES LENIHAN,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

ST. MARY'S, September 24th, 1874.

To Mr. James Lenihan, Indian Commissioner, Victoria, B. C.

DEAR SIR,—I send to the editor of the *Standard* a letter from Rev. Father Grandidier, wherein you can see that dissatisfaction amongst the Indians of the Upper Country about their land is far from abating. Bad feelings amongst them are increasing so much that I really fear we may have soon serious troubles. They do not speak to their missionaries about their warlike intention, because they know very well that we are against war, yet their frequent meetings, councils of chiefs, and messengers, induce many of our missionaries to believe that there may be some plotting going on. For myself, I am inclined to believe that it is time to take some steps in order to satisfy the Indians, as more delay would very probably expose the Province to a disastrous war. I find myself in duty bound to write these few lines to you.

I have &c.,

(Signed,) †

LOUIS O. M. J.,

*Bishop of Miletopolis, N. A. of British Columbia.*

OKANAGAN MISSION, August 28th, 1874.

To the Editor of the *Victoria Standard*:—

SIR.—In your issue of the 12th inst. you have an article entitled "An Indian War," which has called my especial attention. In it you attribute with correctness the never ceasing strife between the white and the Indian on the American side to the iniquitous treatment inflicted upon the latter. Your reflections have forcibly drawn mine to our native tribes, and to their present dissatisfaction about their lands, which dissatisfaction has not abated, for the visit of Colonel Powell, Indian Commissioner, has not had all the results which were anticipated from it.

At Kamloops the Shuswap Indians gathered to welcome him, expecting that their grievance would be redressed. They exposed to him their needs, their earnest and unanimous wish to have more land. By the improvements which they had already accomplished on their reservations, without help from anybody, by their sole efforts, and by the census of their cattle, they showed him that theirs was no idle wish.

The Commissioner was pleased with them and gave substantial proofs of his interest, for which they feel very grateful; but for the land question it was out of his power to settle it according to their wish.

When the Dominion Government took charge of the Indian tribes of British Columbia it was proposed to adopt the same policy towards them as towards their brothers of the other Provinces, and grant each family a large quantity of land. To this proposition the Local Government objected, and would not grant more than twenty (20) acres. Is it just and expedient for the Government to grant the natives as small a portion of lands as possible? None will think so.

Before the settlement of this Province the natives were in possession of it. There was no one to restrain them in that possession. Their horses had wide pasture lands to feed upon. The whites came, took land, fenced it, and little by little hemmed the Indians in their small reservations. They leased the land that they did not buy and drove the cattle of the Indians from their old pasture land. Many of the reservations have been surveyed without their consent, and sometimes without having received notice of it, so that they could not expose their needs and their wishes. Their reservations have been repeatedly cut off smaller for the benefit of the whites, and the best and most useful part of them taken away till some tribes are corralled on a small piece of land, as at Canoe Creek or elsewhere, or even have not an inch of ground, as at Williams Lake. The natives have protested against those spoliations, from the beginning. They have complained bitterly of that treatment, but they have not obtained any redress.

Is that treatment according to the dictates of justice? Who will wonder at the dissatisfaction that has been growing amongst the Indians? The land was theirs and their forefathers before the whites came; that land has been wrenched from them in virtue of might, not right; not a cent has been given them to extinguish their title to the land. They have been left to struggle on the parcel of land allotted them without any encouragement, any help, any agricultural implements from any quarter, and, because they are forbearing and peacefully disposed, they are to be granted the minimum possible of land.

I appeal to every impartial mind, is that treatment according to Justice? And are not the natives justified in now claiming their rights? Reverse the case, and place the whites in the place of the Indians, which white settler would bear with it? And it is not correct to say that no injustice has been done to the Indians in taking away their land because they did not cultivate it. For they were the owners of the land and the title to a property is not rendered valueless because the property is left to decay. Our American neighbours have recognized that title, since they have passed a treaty with all the tribes whose land they come to occupy. Whether they fulfilled that treaty or not is not the question; but they recognize the Indian title to the land, although those lands were in the same condition then as it was here when the whites came. Besides their land were valuable to the Indians for hunting, and now the game is receding far away before the whites. It was valuable to them for their horses, and now their horses and cattle have no ground to feed upon, and would starve in some places were it not for the forbearance of some white settlers.

In former times the Indians did not cultivate land; now, taught by the example of the whites, they see its value. They are not unwilling to let the whites have the greater and the best portion of it, but not the whole, or nearly so. Children and owners of the soil, they want a sufficient share of it to get a living from it. They do not think that when a white man can pre-empt 320 acres and buy as much more, besides the facility of leasing more, that they are unreasonable in asking 80 acres of their own land per family; and in that they are supported by the example of the Dominion Government's conduct towards the other Indians. If they claim that it is to use it; and already on their reservations, or most of them, they carry on farming as far as their limited means and knowledge permit it. Both will improve in time, as the already effected improvement is a convincing proof. They must not be judged according to what they have been in past times, but according to what they are, and promise to be, useful and industrious men. It is better for every settler to have the Indians fixed contentedly on farms than wandering discontentedly, and looking with anxious eyes on the fat of the land which they are not allowed to share.

Then it is but just to deal fairly by them, and lay for their uses reservations amply sufficient for their future wants. For the reservations which are to be laid over are to be permanent for many generations.

But will not twenty acres be sufficient for each family? What is the purpose of the Government? To civilize and make useful men of them. The first step to do it is to reclaim them from their wandering life and attach them by bonds of interest to the soil.

But if the Indian leaves off his ordinary pursuits of life he expects to find a better compensation in the new means adopted by him to earn the livelihood of his family and his own. Will he find it in a tract of twenty acres? Will those twenty acres be all good cultivated land easy of irrigation? Probably not. Supposing them however to be so, how can he get from them a comfortable living for his family?

Actually the Indian cannot live as he used to formerly; his contact with the whites has created for him new and imperious needs which must be satisfied, in the way of clothing and food. Besides his family he will have to find enough of food on his twenty acres to keep his horses and cattle. Having no natural meadows whereon to cut hay, he will have to sow grass on a large piece of his twenty acres, for already the



Indian begins to raise cattle, and the census taken last Spring shows 436 heads of horned cattle and about 1,300 horses between seven tribes, and they are only beginning. What will it amount to in ten or twenty years if they have land enough to feed them? Having set aside the part for hay they will cultivate the cultivable balance of their twenty acres; after a few years that land being light soil will require manure, but where will the Indian find it? Where are they to keep their horses and cattle to save manure? How many heads can they keep on twenty acres summer and winter, after the needs of their families have been attended to? Then what can they do with their exhausted land, without means of fertilizing it, and without any more of it to sow, while the old piece is left to rest? If a white man can scarcely eke out a living with his 320 acres how can an Indian do it with 20? They will have twenty (20) acres while the present head of the family lives, but at his death, his sons dividing his inheritance, will have ten or even five acres for their lot. Is such prospects attractive enough to lead the Indians to leave off their wanderings and turn all their energies to cultivate the soil?

Is it possible to believe that the Indians can any more than anybody else live with their families out of the produce of 20 acres, keep horses and cattle there and meet all expenses? Besides a good part of the reservation, with a few exceptions, is either over-flooded in summer, or parched for want of water which cannot be brought there, covered with timber, or strewn with rocks, as any visitor may convince himself.

Out of 320 acres a man may pick out the best spot to cultivate and make a living, out of twenty acres it is impossible; which white family would like to try it? And still they have more means and knowledge at their command than the Indians.

If the Government be sincere in its intention of civilizing the Indians, let sufficient land be allotted to them; as it is at present it is either too much or far too little; too much if the Government does not want them to cultivate their farms and live from the produce, too little by far if it does.

The question is too important for the welfare of the country to stop at half measures. But those who want to cultivate on a large scale can pre-empt land as any other man, after they have obtained a special authorization from the Governor. That permission may be refused, and would be if many applications were sent, for that special permission is required against Indian pre-emption, and it is not the Government policy to let Indians pre-empt. Besides, suppose the permission granted, how can an Indian who has nothing, no provisions, no money, no implements of agriculture, remain for ten months on his claim with his family? When he leaves he cannot engage a white man, another Indian cannot take his place, so that in his absence to procure food for his family his land may be jumped.

Pre-emption is but a nominal right to the Indian for whom it was not intended, and whose condition does not allow him to fulfil the pre-emptions of the law.

The natives are now quite awake to the necessity of following the example of the whites. They look into the future with fear for themselves and their children if they do not do so; they want reasonable means for doing it, and consequently demand 80 acres of a farm for each head of a family, and extensive mountain pasture for their cattle, so as to allow them to increase their number every year and improve their own condition. This they have asked from the Indian Commissioner; they are anxious to obtain no money, nor any other compensation will they accept in its stead.

The Indians of this country, as a people, are honest, peaceful, law abiding, and well disposed towards the whites; none can complain that they have done him any harm. On the contrary, they are industrious and of great service to the whites. Let not their good qualities be turned against their interests, but be one reason the more to secure to them the means of becoming useful members of society. If they obtain the right which they claim, the good feeling that reigns between them and the whites shall be strengthened for ever. The settlers need not entertain any fear of them; we shall never see in our midst the heart-rending scenes which desolate so many homes amongst our neighbors; and the comparison which you draw to the advantage of our Government and of its just treatment of the natives, will remain an undisputed truth.

But if the Indians are persistently refused their demands, if they are deprived of their fathers' land without any hope of redress from the proper authorities, their dissatisfactions will increase, meetings shall be held again, as it has been about their grievances, until they come to an understanding, the end of which I am afraid to foresee. We may have very serious disturbances, which it might be impossible to suppress except at the cost of human life and large expenditure of money, as our past experience has taught us with the Chilcoten Indians; and those were only a handful of men, whilst the present dissatisfaction pervades all the tribes living amongst the whites.

I beg to apologize for the length of this communication, but the matter is too important for me to keep silent. If it is my duty to teach the Indian to keep the commandments of God, and obey the just laws of man, it is no less my obligation to spare no effort in order that justice be done to them, and that peace and security be preserved in my adopted country.

Believe me to remain, etc.,  
(Signed)

C. J. GRANDIDIER,  
O. M. J. Priest.

*Mr. Lenihan to the Provincial Secretary.*

VICTORIA, B. C.,

October 15th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th inst., acknowledging mine of the 8th inst., and saying "the same will be brought under the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council at the earliest opportunity."

You are also pleased to say, "In the meantime I desire to call your attention to the fact that all that is 'reasonable and just' to demand from the Provincial Government is, that the 13th Section of the Terms of Union Act should be faithfully observed."

The section referred to sets forth—"That the charge of the Indians, and the Trusteeship and management of the lands reserved for their use and benefit, shall be assumed by the Dominion Government, and a policy as liberal as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government shall be continued by the Dominion Government after the Union.

"To carry out such policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall, from time to time, be conveyed by the Local Government to the Dominion Government, in trust, for the use and benefit of the Indians on application of the Dominion Government, and in case of disagreement between the two Governments respecting the quantity of such tracts of lands to be so granted the matter shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

A careful reading of this section, taken and considered in connection with all the other sections of the Terms of Union Act, and taking into account the very liberal provisions and stipulations of the same in favor of British Columbia, leads me to the conviction that the most liberal and enlightened interpretation should be given to the spirit and meaning of this particular section.

Permit me to ask, Has this been done by the Government of British Columbia? and to what extent has it been "faithfully observed?"

It may also be well to enquire as to the "policy and practice" which has hitherto been observed by the Provincial Government on the question of Indian Reserves. Has it been well defined, regular, and uniform?

By reference to the Report of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia for 1872 and 1873, page 20, and from which I extract three consecutive items, contained in the schedule of Indian Reserves by way of example. I find that the "Popkum" tribe, on the Fraser River, has a reservation of 369 acres, and I am credibly informed that there are only four (4) families upon this reserve, which gives an average of ninety-two acres to each family, of good land.

Then there is the Chamiel tribe, in the same vicinity, having 448 acres, and my informant gives the number of families upon the reserve as twenty (20), which gives an average of twenty-four acres to each family. Again, there is the Cheam tribe, less fortunate than the other two named, having 375 acres for twenty-seven families, or an average of fourteen acres for each family.

Thus, it is quite evident the "policy and practice which has hitherto been observed" has been neither well defined, uniform, or regular. The first named tribe having a maximum quantity of 92 acres of good land to each family, and the last mentioned tribe with a minimum of fourteen acres of poor land for each family; but putting the three tribes above mentioned together we find they have an average of twenty-four acres to each family, all situated upon the banks of the Fraser River, and where few or no cattle are kept, while the Government adhere strictly to a uniform "policy" of allowing only twenty acres to each head of an Indian family, and this, too, in many cases of the very worst quality, and for the Indians of the Mainland, many of whom have a large number of horses and cattle.

Therefore, in view of these facts, I most respectfully submit that a more liberal, well defined, and uniform "policy" should be adopted by the Government of British Columbia on the question of Indian Reserves, and more especially towards those Indians of the Interior of the Mainland having a large number of horses and cattle, and with whom, it appears, no treaty has yet been made to extinguish the titles to their lands, which justice and equity should secure to them, as the original owners and occupants of the soil.

In making this request, I do not ask the maximum quantity and quality of land as given to the Popkum tribe (ninety-two acres to each family), but only that the Government may be pleased to grant, reserve, and set aside a sufficient quantity of the public lands of the Province, of good average quality, free from rocks and swamps, to secure to each head of an Indian family, at least eighty acres of good average quality, together with continuing to him the right of pre-emption, as under the existing laws and regulations; and that such reservations may be made, as far as possible, adjacent to and in connection with the present village sites, reservations, and favorite haunts of the Indians.

That, in addition to the limit of eighty (80) acres to each family, those having large herds of cattle and horses should receive sufficient land, over and above such limit, to answer their requirements, in consequence of being the owners of such horses and cattle.

While discussing this subject it may not be altogether out of place to remind the Government of British Columbia of the great advantage accruing to the Province by virtue of her Indian population, which will appear more clearly upon reference to Sections 2 and 3 of the Terms of Union Act, whereby she receives a handsome annuity from the Dominion Government on her Indian population, which, in addition to the great advantages of the Indians as producers and consumers, and the assistance which they render in the development of the resources of the Province—if no higher view is to be taken of the question—claims for the Indians at the hands of the Government of British Columbia very great consideration.

Again, there is the large sum which the Dominion pays to the Province annually, over and above any revenue which she receives therefrom, should entitle her to ask that the Government of British Columbia should put the largest possible construction upon the spirit and meaning of the section of the Terms of Union Act to which you have done me the honor to call my attention.

In conclusion, I would again most respectfully urge upon the Government of British Columbia, and on behalf of the Dominion Government, the wisdom and justice of at once laying aside for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Province, a sufficient quantity of the public lands as aforesaid, to convince them that their interests shall be scrupulously guarded, and thereby secure their loyalty and good will, and avert any danger to the peace of the Province, or the lives and property of our white fellow citizens.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

JAMES LENIHAN,

Indian Commissioner.

*The Provincial Secretary to Lieutenant-Colonel Powell.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
8th December, 1875.

SIR,—I have the honor to acquaint you that a complaint has been brought before the Government by Mr. Calver, residing at Jervis Inlet, that he had been threatened and warned off his pre-emption at Seychelt by the Indians of that Inlet, and it is asserted that the Indians have taken this action in consequence of your not having visited them and distributed presents, as among other tribes.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) JOHN ASH.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Powell to the Provincial Secretary.*

INDIAN OFFICE,  
December 9th, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., acquainting me that a Mr. Calver, residing at Jervis Inlet, had been threatened and warned off his pre-emption at Seychelt, by the Indians of that Inlet, and further, it is asserted that the "Indians have taken this action in consequence of your not having visited them and distributed presents, as among other tribes."

In reply, I have the honor to state that I had previously been informed the Indians residing at Jervis Inlet claim the lands upon which Mr. Calver is located, and that they have warned Mr. Calver to leave because they have not been settled with in respect to these lands.

I would, with much deference suggest, that the pre-emption of lands in unsettled parts of the Province, before satisfactory arrangements have been made with the aborigines regarding such settlement, is certain to lead to complaints and even more serious consequences than those conveyed in your letter. I may remind you that several tribes of Indians whom I have visited, have refused the acceptance of presents while their claims to land are unrecognized, and pending the definite and final agreement between the Provincial and Dominion Governments, respecting the quantity of lands to be allowed all Indians of the Province, I am of opinion that any future visitation on the part of a Commissioner is not only inadvisable, but would be quite unproductive of the permanent benefit which such an interview, under other circumstances, ought always to secure.

I will, however, transmit a copy of your letter to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, for his consideration and direction in the matter alluded to, and shall be glad to acquaint you with the nature of his reply as soon as received.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) I. W. POWELL,  
*Indian Commissioner.*

*The Under Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.*

OTTAWA, 14th November, 1874.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and of the Memorandum of the Honorable the Minister of the Interior therein referred to, on the subject of the Land question in British Columbia.

I am directed to request that you will have the goodness to bring the important subject to which these documents relate under the early consideration of your Government.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. J. LANGEVIN,  
*Under Secretary of State.*

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General, on the 4th November, 1874.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have given their attentive consideration to the Memorandum of the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, in reference to the unsatisfactory state of the Indian Land question in the Province of British Columbia, and they respectfully report their entire concurrence in the views and recommendations submitted therein, and advise that a copy of this Minute, when approved by Your Excellency, and of the annexed Memorandum, be transmitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, in the hope that the views entertained by the Dominion Government on this important question, as embodied in the said Memorial, may meet with an early and favorable consideration at the hands of the Government of British Columbia.

They further advise, that a copy of this Minute and annexed Memorandum be transmitted by Your Excellency to the Right Honorable Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by copies of such of the other documents submitted, as the Honorable the Minister of the Interior may think necessary, to enable Lord Carnarvon to understand in all its bearings the great national question now seeking solution at the hands of the Dominion and British Columbia Governments.

(Certified) W. A. HIMSWORTH,  
*Clerk Privy Council.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OTTAWA,  
November 2nd, 1874.

## MEMO.

The undersigned is desirous of bringing under the consideration of the Governor-General in Council, the present unsatisfactory state of the Indian Land question in the Province of British Columbia.

In connection with this subject, he has had before him various reports and official documents, among others, a voluminous correspondence of Mr. Indian Commissioner Powell with the Local Government of British Columbia, in reference to the Order in Council of the 24th April last, respecting the Indian Reserves; also, the same Commissioner's report of a visit made by him to the Indian tribes in the interior of British Columbia during the past Summer; and lastly, an able and interesting communication from the Rev. C. F. Grandidier, (a Roman Catholic missionary, residing among the Indians in the Interior) published in the *Standard* newspaper, Victoria, with letters from both the Indian Commissioners and from the Roman Catholic Bishop of British Columbia, commenting on Father Grandidier's communication; all of which reports and letters are herewith submitted.

A cursory glance at these documents, is enough to show that the present state of the Indian land question in our territory West of the Rocky Mountains, is most unsatisfactory, and that it is the occasion, not only of great discontent among the aboriginal tribes, but also of serious alarm to the white settlers.

To the Indian, the land question far transcends in importance all others, and its satisfactory adjustment in British Columbia will be the first step towards allaying the wide-spread and growing discontent now existing among the native tribes of that Province.

The adjustment of this important matter is not a little complicated, from the fact that its solution requires the joint action of the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia, and involves a possible reference to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The policy heretofore pursued by the Local Government of British Columbia toward the red men in that Province, and the recently expressed views of that Government in the correspondence herewith submitted, fall far short of the estimate entertained by the Dominion Government of the reasonable claims of the Indians.

In the very last official communication, under date the 12th ultimo, received through Mr. Commissioner Lenihan, the Provincial Secretary of British Columbia writes as follows:—

"In the meantime, I desire to call your attention to the fact, that all that is *reasonable and just* to demand of the Provincial Government is, that the 13th Section of the Terms of Union should be faithfully observed. Should the Dominion Government be of opinion that concessions beyond those provided for in the said Section are necessary, it becomes the duty of that Government to make provision accordingly."

To explain the relative position of the Dominion and Local Governments in relation to this question, it is necessary to remember:—

That, under the operation of the 109th and 146th Sections of the "British North America Act of 1867," all the public lands of the Province of British Columbia are placed under the control of the Local Government;

That, by the 13th Article of the Terms of admission of British Columbia into Confederation, it is provided,—

"That the charge of the Indians, and the trusteeship and management of the lands reserved for their use and benefit, should be assumed by the *Dominion Government*, and a policy as *liberal as that hitherto pursued* by the British Columbia Government, should be continued by the Dominion Government after the Union."

And it is further provided,—

"To carry out such policy, tracts of land of such extent as it has hitherto been the practice of the British Columbia Government to appropriate for that purpose, shall from time to time be conveyed from the Local to the Dominion Government, in trust for the use and benefit of the Indians, on application of the Dominion Government; and in case of disagreement between the two Governments, respecting the quantity of such tracts of land to be granted, the matter shall be referred for the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

When the framers of the Terms of admission of British Columbia into the Union inserted this provision, requiring the Dominion Government to pursue a policy as *liberal* towards the Indians as that hitherto pursued by the British Columbia Government, they could hardly have been aware of the marked contrast between the Indian policies which had, up to that time, prevailed in Canada and British Columbia respectively.

Whereas in British Columbia, ten acres of land was the maximum allowance for a family of five persons, in old Canada the minimum allowance for such a family was eighty acres: and a similar contrast obtained in regard to grants for education and all other matters connected with the Indians under the respective Governments. Read by this light, the insertion of a clause guaranteeing the aborigines of British Columbia the continuance by the Dominion Government of the liberal policy heretofore pursued by the Local Government, seems little short of a mockery of their claims.

The first step taken by the Government of the Dominion in dealing with this subject, was the passing of an Order in Council of the 21st March, 1873, recommending that eighty acres of land should be assigned by the Local Government of British Columbia to every Indian family of five persons.

To this recommendation (made in accordance with the general policy heretofore pursued in Old Canada in such matters, but without taking into consideration the bearing of the 13th Clause already referred to, securing a liberal policy for the Indians of British Columbia) the Government of that Province peremptorily declined to accede, alleging that the quantity of land which the Order in Council proposed to assign to the Indians was greatly in excess of what was found to be sufficient by previous local Governments, and the Indian Commissioner was notified that the Government of British Columbia had decided that the land reserved for the Indians should not exceed twenty acres for each head of a family of five persons.

Even this allowance of twenty acres for each head of a family, inadequate as it would have been considered by the Indians, has, by the interpretation lately put by the local authorities on their Order in Council granting it, been very materially reduced. They now hold that that Order in Council was intended to apply to new reserves only and not to the old reserves existing at the time of Union. Such, with the exception of the latter interpretation, was the position of the Indian land question in British Columbia when the duty of administering Indian affairs devolved upon the undersigned in his capacity of Minister of the Interior.

His first step in connection with the subject was to submit a memorandum to Council setting forth the facts of the case and recommending, as under the circumstances was inevitable, that the Order in Council of the 21st March, 1873, assigning eighty acres to each Indian family be rescinded, and that only twenty acres be allowed to each family, but also recommending, *inter alia*, that the Local Government should be invited to reconsider their Indian land policy with a view to co-operate in every way with the Government of the Dominion in satisfying the reasonable demands of the native tribes West of the Rocky Mountains.

This memorandum was approved by the Governor-General in Council on 24th April last.

Mr. Indian Commissioner Powell duly submitted this Order in Council to the British Columbia Government, accompanied by such arguments as he could use in favor of the adoption by that Government of a more liberal land policy toward the Indians.

The British Columbia Government, however, appear to be resolved to adhere to their determination not to go beyond the grant of twenty acres to each Indian family, and even that allowance, as already observed, is authoritatively declared to be intended not "to affect or unsettle reservations before established" but is confined to the cases in which, at the time of Confederation, the original tribes were not provided "with land set apart for their exclusive use."

The Indian Commissioner on being officially notified of the views of the Local Government, felt reluctantly obliged to arrest the surveys of the Indian Reserves in the Province—surveys which had been authorized by him, and which were then being proceeded with, on the understanding (sanctioned, as he believed, by the Local Government) that 20 acres of land were to be allowed to each Indian family, whether on the old Reserves or otherwise.

This suspension of the surveys, though under other circumstances a necessary step, is calculated to aggravate the discontent and alarm of the Indians in reference to their treatment by the Government, and will, in a great measure, help to keep open the long pending dispute between the white settlers and the Indians in reference to their respective land claims; disputes which, in the summer of 1873, nearly led to an outbreak of the Indian population of the Province, and to the recurrence of which it was hoped these surveys would put an end.

How universal, deep seated, and intense, the feeling of discontent among the Indians of British Columbia was, previous even to the last decision of the Local Government limiting the 20 acre grant, is unmistakably apparent in Mr. Commissioner Powell's Report of his visit to the native tribes last summer, and in the letters of the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Province, and Father Grandidier.

In this connection Mr. Commissioner Powell does not hesitate to write that—

"If there has not been an Indian War, it is not because there has been no injustice to the Indians, but because the Indians have not been sufficiently united."

These gloomy anticipations are shared, not only by both the Indian Commissioners, but also by the white settlers generally in the Province, and are expressed still more strongly, if possible, in the communication already alluded to, of Father Grandidier and the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Province.

All concur in the opinion that, until the land grievances of which the Indians complain are satisfactorily redressed, no treatment, however liberal or humane in the way of money grants or presents, will avail to secure peace or contentment among them. As an evidence of the strength of this feeling of dissatisfaction, Commissioner Powell states that the Indian bands at Nicola and Okanagan Lakes wholly declined to accept any presents from him last summer, lest, by so doing, they should be thought to waive their claim for compensation for the injustice done them in relation to the Land Grants.

The views of the Roman Catholic Bishop and of Father Grandidier entirely accord, as we have said, with those of the Commissioners; and the opinions of those Reverend gentlemen are, it is thought, worthy of special consideration, from the fact that they speak with a thorough knowledge of the subject, acquired by a long residence among the Indians, and close and habitual intercourse with them.

The other principal land grievances of which the Indians complain, besides that of the insufficient quantity allowed them, as already referred to, may be briefly stated under two heads:—

1st. They complain that, in many instances, the lands which they had settled upon and cultivated have been taken from them without compensation, and *pre-empted* by the white settlers, and that in some cases their burial grounds have been thus pre-empted.

2nd. They complain that in consequence of the present state of the law in reference to pastoral land, their cattle and horses are systematically driven away from the open country by the white settlers who have taken leases of pastoral land in the neighbourhood.

All these several grievances have been, for many years past, the subjects of complaint among the Indians: But during the last two or three years they have assumed a more serious aspect than heretofore; partly from the fact that the Indians are now, for the first time, feeling practically the inconvenience of being hemmed in by the white settlers, and prevented from using the land for pastoral purposes; partly because the Indians are only now beginning to understand the value of agriculture and to desire the possession of land for cultivation; and partly, it may be, because they have been recently made aware of the liberal land policy extended to the Indians of North-West in recent Treaties, and naturally contrast this treatment with the policy meted out to themselves.

The Indians of British Columbia, especially those in the Interior of the Province, are intelligent and industrious, and likely to turn to good account any farming lands which may be assigned to them. Moreover they already own large herds of horses and cattle, and a liberal allowance of pastoral land is to them a matter of absolute necessity, to enable them to support their stock.

The undersigned feels that the Government of the Dominion cannot be charged with want of liberality in its dealings with the Indians of British Columbia since the admission of that Province into the Union. During the last two years the sum of \$54,000 has been voted by Parliament for their benefit; and before the expiration of the current financial year, the whole of that large sum will probably have been expended, either in supporting Indian Schools, making surveys, distributing agricultural implements and seed, or for other objects calculated to promote their material and moral well-being.

When it is stated that prior to the admission of British Columbia into the Union, the entire annual expenditure of the Local Government on the Indians, did not exceed, at most, a few hundred dollars; that as Mr. Commissioner Powell states:—

“Money payments by the Government, on account of the native race, have been restricted to expenditure incurred by Indian outrages, and no efforts have been put forth with a view to civilizing them; it having been considered that the best mode of treating them was to let them alone.”

It cannot be alleged that, in this respect, the Government of the Dominion has failed, on its part, to continue towards the Indians of that Province a policy as liberal as that previously pursued by the British Columbia Government.

In laying the foundation of an Indian policy in that Province, on the same permanent and satisfactory basis as in the other portions of the Dominion, the Government of the Dominion feel they would not be justified in limiting their efforts to what, under the strict letter of the Terms of Union, they were called upon to do. They feel that a great national question like this, a question involving possibly in the near future an Indian War with all its horrors, should be approached in a very different spirit, and dealt with upon other and higher grounds. Actuated by these feelings, the Government of the Dominion in its dealings with the Indians of British Columbia, has acted, as has been shewn, in a spirit of liberality far beyond what the strict terms of the agreement required at its hands; and they confidently trust that on a calm review of the whole subject in all its important bearings, the Government of that Province will be prepared to meet them in a spirit of equal liberality.

The policy foreshadowed in the provisions of the 13th Clause of the British Columbia Terms of Union is plainly altogether inadequate to satisfy the fair and reasonable demands of the Indians.

To satisfy these demands, and to secure the good-will of the natives, the Dominion and Local Governments must look beyond the terms of that agreement, and be governed in their conduct towards the aborigines by the justice of their claims, and by the necessities of the case.

The undersigned would, therefore, respectfully recommend, that the Government of the Dominion should make an earnest appeal to the Government of British Columbia, if they value the peace and prosperity of their Province,—if they desire that Canada as a whole should retain the high character she has earned for herself by her just and honorable treatment of the red men of the forest, to reconsider in a spirit of wisdom and patriotism the land grievances of which the Indians of that Province complain, apparently with good reason, and take such measures as may be necessary promptly and effectually to redress them.

In conclusion, the undersigned would recommend that, should the views submitted in this Memorandum be approved by the Governor-General in Council, a copy of the Order in Council passed in the case, with a copy of this Memorandum, be transmitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, with a request that he would take an early opportunity of submitting them to his Executive Government, and express the hope that the views of the Dominion Government therein embodied, may obtain an early and favorable consideration.

He would further recommend, that copies of the Order in Council and the Memorandum, should also be transmitted by the Governor-General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, accompanied by copies of such of the other documents herewith submitted as may be thought necessary to enable the Colonial Secretary to understand in all its bearings the great national question now seeking solution at the hands of the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia.

(Signed)

DAVID LAIRD,  
*Minister of Interior.*