

Soda Creek, B. C.

July 24th, 1914.

Duncan C. Scott, Esq.,

Deputy Superintendent General of I. A.,

c/o Inspector W. E. Ditchburn,

Victoria, B. C.

Sir,

By direction of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for British Columbia, I have the honour to advise you that a meeting with the Indians of the Shuswap Nation at Canim Lake I. R., on the 15th instant, the Indians of the Band then and there present declined to make any general statement or to give evidence touching their reserves, giving as their explanation for such course the statement that their Chief had received the following letter:

"Indian Rights Association of B. C.

"Office of the General Secretary,

"41 South Turner Street,

"Victoria, B. C.,

"June 22rd, 1914.

"Dear Sir,

"I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Clark has gone to England with full instructions to wait upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and urge that the original petition of the British Columbia Indians be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Mr. Clark considers this step of the utmost importance inasmuch as the Commission now at work is not dealing with the question of title, which question covers the rights of the Indians not only to the land, but also to the fish, game, timber, water and other interests to which the natives laid claim before the coming of the white man and which they have never surrendered. We trust and pray that Mr. Clark may be successful as it seems the only hope of getting justice.

"This action will entail considerable expense with very little money in the treasury to meet it. For two years you have not been asked to subscribe, but now the time has come to urge this matter, and you know it cannot be done without money. I think it would be well to make a general appeal -- to the women as well

"as the men -- for some of the best subscribers have  
"been women.  
"Trusting that this matter will receive your  
"immediate attention.

"Yours faithfully,

(sd) "C.H. Gibbons,

"Gen'l Secretary.

I may add that at various meetings with the Indians held subsequent to that at Canim Lake on the 15th inst., statements were made by the Indians and evidence given as desired, touching the matter of reserves and the conditions obtaining generally among the Indians.

The Commission has thought it well to place these facts before you for your information.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C.H. Gibbons,

Assistant Secretary.