

SECOND AND FINAL REPORT

MONDAY, April 11, 1927.

The Special Committees of the Senate and House of Commons appointed to inquire into the claims of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia, as set forth in their Petition presented to Parliament in June, 1926, beg to submit their Second and Final Report:—

The Committees convened on March 22nd, 1927, and held prolonged sittings on March 30th, 1927, March 31st, 1927, April 4th, 1927, April 5th, 1927, and April 6th, 1927, at which the following witnesses were examined:—

Mr. Duncan C. Scott, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs;
W. E. Ditchburn, Indian Commissioner for British Columbia;

Mr. W. A. Found, Director of Fisheries;

Mr. John Chisholm, Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice;

Andrew Paull, Secretary of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia;

Chief John Chillihitza, of the Nicola Valley Indian Tribes of British Columbia;

Rev. P. R. Kelly, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia;

Chief Basil David, of the Bonaparte Indian Tribe of British Columbia.

In addition to the foregoing witnesses, there also appeared the following Counsel who addressed the Committee on behalf of their respective clients, viz:—

A. E. O'Meara, Counsel for the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia;

A. D. McIntyre, Counsel for the Indian Tribes of the Interior of British Columbia.

As Interpreters for Chief John Chillihitza and Chief Basil David, there were also present:—

Mrs. Julian Williams and Mr. William Pierrish.

The evidence of the witnesses and the arguments of Counsel were taken down in shorthand and printed from day to day. The printed reports of such evidence and arguments also contain the documents and other material in writing that were submitted to your Committee by the witnesses and the Counsel who appeared before it.

It is thought proper to refer to the manner in which the evidence given by the Rev. P. R. Kelly, Mr. Andrew Paull, Chief Chillihitza and Chief Basil David, the Indian witnesses was presented. The Chiefs spoke through their interpreters, who translated the Indian language into English in a competent way. The evidence of Messrs. Kelly and Paull was given in idiomatic English, clearly and forcibly expressed, and both the matter of their evidence and the manner of presentation were highly acceptable to your Committee. Due praise should be accorded them, and the Indian members of their organization can be assured of the competent and thorough fashion in which they dealt with the case.

It may be informative to include here a brief historical retrospect which will summarize the facts regarding the occupation of the country now known as British Columbia.

On March 29th, 1778, the famous explorer Captain Cook with two ships (the Resolution and the Discovery) arrived at Hope Bay near Nootka, which place he made his headquarters and made repairs, and from which point he explored the coast northward until he struck the Arctic ice. The next year Captain Clerke who had accompanied Captain Cook returned to the coast from