

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

they suffered as residents of the province owing to their native blood, all branches of the subject were dealt with, and by questioning the witnesses and eliciting information from departmental officers, the Committee came into possession of a mass of interesting facts in connection with the various subjects under review. The Indians, in claiming aboriginal title, had given to the provincial government under date of November 12th, 1919, an exhaustive statement of the case, and set forth "conditions proposed as a basis of settlement." It is thought to be highly desirable that your Committee should review these claims and inform Parliament of the extent to which the conditions are at present being met, and to make recommendations that would tend to meet the conditions proposed, where they are not already provided for. It is thought well to deal with these conditions under each sub-head in sequence as shown at page 36 of the Proceedings, and to make such remarks as are relevant:

(1) That the Proclamation issued by King George III in the year 1763 and the Report presented by the Minister of Justice in the year 1875 be accepted by the two Governments and established as the main basis of all dealings and all adjustments of Indian land rights and other rights which shall be made.

The subject matter of the foregoing paragraph has already been dealt with by your Committee in their Finding contained in the recommendation hereinbefore made, and further comment thereon is, therefore, unnecessary.

(2) That it be conceded that each Tribe for whose use and benefit land is set aside (under Article 13 of the "Terms of Union") acquires thereby a full, permanent and beneficial title to the land so set aside together with all natural resources pertaining thereto; and that Section 127 of the Land Act of British Columbia be amended accordingly.

(5) That adequate additional lands be set aside and that to this end a per capita standard of 160 acres of average agricultural land having in case of lands situated within the dry belt a supply of water sufficient for irrigation, be established. By the word "standard," we mean not a hard and fast rule, but a general estimate to be used as a guide, and to be applied in a reasonable way to the actual requirements of each tribe.

(6) That in sections of the Province in case of which the character of available land and the conditions prevailing make it impossible or undesirable to carry out fully or at all that standard, the Indian Tribes concerned be compensated for such deficiency by grazing lands, by timber lands, by hunting lands or otherwise, as the particular character and conditions of each such section may require.

(7) That all existing inequalities in respect to both acreage and value between lands set aside for the various Tribes be adjusted.

(8) That for the purpose of enabling the two Governments to set aside adequate additional lands and adjust all inequalities there be established a system of obtaining lands including compulsory purchase, similar to that which is being carried out by the Land Settlement Board of British Columbia.

It may be stated at once that the reserves as set apart under Article 13 of the "Terms of Union" and allotted in the report of the Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia, and confirmed by both governments, are held by the Dominion in trust for the full and permanent beneficial interest of the Indians, and all such natural resources pertaining thereto as *are the property of the Indians*. It is interesting to note the progressive steps which have been taken by the two interested governments in the settlement of the claims of the Indians for reserve lands. Such reserves as were set apart before Con-