

federation were granted by the Colonial Government. After Confederation, the lands reserved were set apart by a Joint Reserve Commission, and later by a single Commissioner, and the reserves so set apart were scheduled by the province and appropriated as Indian reserves. As it was desirable to further and complete this work, and to allot reserves in territories which were becoming settled and in which it might be difficult later to get suitable lands for Indians, the two governments made an agreement known as the McKenna-McBride agreement, and later formed a Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of British Columbia; the duty of the Commission being to review and revise the whole reserve situation, to provide new reserves, and to have the power of disallowing reserve lands not required for Indian use, but in such cases preserving one moiety of the Indian interests. By this arrangement when final confirmation of the reserves was made, any provincial interests would disappear and the Dominion, in trust for the Indians, would have the full use and benefit of these reserves. The Commissioners visited all parts of the Province, and everywhere and at all times the Indians gave evidence as to their requirements, and it is clear that the Commissioners endeavoured to meet the wishes of the Indians wherever it was possible to do so and to give them adequate reserves.

After the report had been received by both governments, two competent officers of the governments were delegated to make a further examination into the needs of the Indians, and representative Indians were appointed to confer with these officers and to make further representations. This action was completed and the report of the Commission and a schedule of reserves was adopted and confirmed by both governments under the statutory provisions of Chap. 51, 1920. It is apparent that the average of agricultural land set up by the proposed conditions of settlement is not applicable to British Columbia, where the Indians generally cannot derive their subsistence from agriculture. The allotment of reserves, of which there are 1,573 in the province, preserves to the Indians in a remarkable degree their old fishing stations and camping grounds, and the action of the Commissioners was evidently extended to preserving Indian rights in traditional locations which the Indians had enjoyed in the early days.

(3) That all existing reserves not now as parts of the Railway Belt or otherwise held by Canada be conveyed to Canada for the use and benefit of the various Tribes.

This work is now in progress, and without delay the reserves confirmed by both Governments will be conveyed by the province to the Dominion.

(4) That all foreshores whether tidal or inland be included in the reserves with which they are connected, so that the various Tribes shall have full permanent and beneficial title to such foreshores.

The Indians have riparian rights on all reserves on tidal waters. The ownership of the foreshore being in the province, the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs endeavoured to obtain some concessions on behalf of the Indians in this regard. The Prime Minister of British Columbia under date of April 23, 1924, stated as follows:

The Honourable

The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to our conversation of yesterday and having reference to the fears expressed by the Indians that where their reserves fronted on the water, access to their lands might be interfered with by construction of wharfs, docks, booms or other obstructions erected or placed along any foreshore on account of ownership of such foreshore being in the Province, as I expressed myself yesterday, I would favour a