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W. J. MACDONALD.

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with whom they sharpened their and if commerce as unintentional an. His advent, at the results of some value; they war was not cone, and that it was ild animals than e the missionary d first and foreibes of the north r. Duncan who christianize and st broke down ho first initiated who first built hat part of the them to respect who first taught ree of comfort, taste the bened civilized life. we the Indiana enefiting them, id, and with Maple Bank Esquimalt British Columbia 5th Nov? 1886

My dear Mr. Cheson Two days since I posted you in an unregistered letter, Culturys from the local bress telative to the methodalthe affair which I hope You will have received a Herewith letter from Mr. Won Junean huself. From Dz. Helmeken, and from Sencitor Macdonald, together with a leading article which may be taken as expressing the view Sovernment in Victoria would wish The Public to regard the transaction as yet I have no news to give you of what may or many not have taken place at Nutlakahthe itself the cable will however have overfaken this communication before you are able to see it. Jours truly arthur Levoth Cellung

Daily Golonist

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 4TH, 1886.

THE METLAKAHTLA QUESTION.

There has lately been considerable correspondence in these columns on the present Indian issue at Metlakahtla, and lengthy letters have set forth the views and opinions of the writers on the matter. The scene is remote, and very few of our readers are acquainted with it, and so far as the general public are concerned they are not aware of the real state of the case, and no doubt are anxious to become acquainted with the position assumed by the federal and local authorities. We will not attempt a discussion of its merits or its demerits, but simply state the question as we under-stand it. The object of the Cormorant proceeding north has nothing to do with the two acres known as Mission point. That land was surveyed two years ago in accordance with the recommendation of the commissioners, adopted by the local legislature. It is true that lately Mr. Duncan's Indians have erected a building upon these two acres, concerning which proceedings have already been taken in the courts, and there this question for the No action in respect of it will time rests. be taken by the magistrate or police officers who have proceeded to Metlakahtla. The survey of the Indian reserve is, however, a very different question. The reservation, consisting of over seventy thousand acres, was appropriated for Indian purposes by the joint consent of the Dominion and provincial governments, and is far in excess of the requirements of the Metlakahtla Indians, and of the extent of land asked for by Mr. Duncan on their behalf. Preparatory to asking for a conveyance in trust for the Indians of this reserve the Dominion government directed a survey of it to be made and Mr. Tuck was employed for that purpose. The Indians have prevented his accomplishing his duties, and the Dominion government, on being informed of that fact, requested the local authorities to take measures to prevent further obstruction. There was not a magistrate at Metlakahtla, the Indians having refused to recognize the Indian agent. They have possession of the jail erected at public expense, and there are no means in that locality to carry out the ordinary police administration of justice. Mr. Harrison, the stipendiary magistrate, together with Supt. Roycraft and two constables were instructed to proceed to Metlakahtla with the two fold object of dealing with such complaints as might be preferred, and to prevent further obstruction to the survey of the Indian reserve. So far from the survey being in denial of any suggested rights of the Indians it is in conservation of their best interests, as it is a step by means of which their occupation of this large tract of land will be secured to them. The local government has never yet refused to adopt the establishment of Indian reserves recommended by the Indian authorities, and it is notorious that throughout the length and breadth of the country the liberal Indian policy of previous British Columbia governments in allocating to the Indians the best lands in the province has, not without complaint from white settlers, been pursued by the province since confederation.

"Mistenders" of the Indians.

TO THE EDITOR: The attention of the public is again being directed to the Indian land question, and well will it be for the province if the subject is met, discussed, and settled honestly, dispassion-

ately and equitably.

The question of land interests is confessedly just now a knotty and vital one for more countries than British Columbia. No question of modern times is engrossing so much time and taxing the talents of our statesmen. And it is notorious that most of the troubles of this generation are the outcome of blundering and injustice in years gone by, in reference to

land matters.

British Columbia is called upon to settle the question squarely and justly. It is not a matter to be settled by abusing individuals or talking of generalities. British Columbia is to be exempt from the errors and sad experience of older countries the rights of the Indians in the land must be ascertained, defined, enforced, and as sacredly defended as the rights of

white men are.

Unfortunately, the question is hampered at the outset by the fact that the Indians are the weak, the poor, and the despised ones. In asserting their claims they are, therefore, ever in danger of arousing the enmity and greed of their powerful neighbors. Those of us who dare befriend them or interpret their words ord views are denounced as con-Be it so. History is ting itself because the spirators. ever repeating itself because the conditions of life remain unchanged. The struggle of right with wrong inevitably must go on to the disadvantage of right till the tune on the organ of the present dispensation is finished and the stop is changed by the hand of the Omnipotent and All-wise.

For the purpose of throwing new light on the subject at issue, it may not be inopportune at this juncture to place before the public the statements of persons in authority now living, and leave readers to decide for themselves whether those porsons who deal with facts are misleaders or not in Indian affairs. The superintendent-general of Indian affairs occupying the same position as Sir John Macdonald does now towards the Indians, in a communication to the provincial government dated Ottawa, Nov. 2, 1874, Says: "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 un-satisfactory, and that it is the occasion not only of great discontent among the aboriginal tribes, but also of serious alarm to the white settlers. The guaranteeing the aborigines of British Columbia the continuance of a policy as liberal as was pursued by the local government seems little short of a mockery of their claims.

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

Again, in a communication from the department of justice, dated Ottawa, 19th

January, 1875, occur the following:
"No surrenders of lands in British Columbia province has ever been obtained from the Indian tribes with one exception. exception. . . Any reservations which have been made have been arbitrary on the part of the government, and without the assent of the Indians themselves."

"There is not a shadow of doubt that from the earliest times England has always felt it imperative to meet the Indians in council, and to obtain surrenders of tracts of Canada as from time to time such were required for the purposes of settlement.

"It is sufficient for the present purpose to ascertain the policy of England in respect to the acquisition of the Indian territorial rights, and how entirely that policy has been followed to the present ime except in the instance of British

I think it unnecessary to quote further from these authoritative documents but surely such words from such men ought to have weight with every honest mind.

The words and views on this subject of that great statesman Lord Dufferin, who when occupying the highest position in the Dominion of Canada are well known. I will remind the public only of a line or two. He said, "most unfortunately, as I think, there has been an initial error ever since Sir James Douglas quitted office, in the government of British Columbia neglecting to recognize what is known as the Indian title.

In conclusion, I would ask can it be right to characterize such persons whose views I have quoted as misleaders of the Indians, and is it not startling to hear from the lips of the chief justice in a court room—that the words of the gover-nor-general of Canada on this subject spoken before "the leading men" of this province in Victoria were only "blarney for the mob."

If the editor of the Colonist will permit me I propose publishing copies of the documents which were filed last summer on Indian affairs when the Tsimshean delegates visited Ottawa. From these documents it will be seen, I think, that the Indians ask for nothing unreasonable and certainly for nothing in the direction of presents which some suppose they ask WILLIAM DUNCAN.

Indian Title.

To THE EDITOR; - Does not Mr. Duncan see that in writing "Lord Dufferin considered the Indians to have a title to the land," and then immediately afterwards writing "that the chief justice ridi-culed the assertion," that the one assertion at least neutralizes the other. The chief justice's opinion, indeed, does away with Lord Dufferin's fancy altogether, and so destroys Mr. Duncan's contention.

With regard to the ideas of the Superintendent General of Indian affairs in 1874 relative to the supposed Indian rights he only knew at this early period after "confederation" what he had been told probably by interested parties and judged according to his ideas of the policy pursued by his government on the east side of the mountains. He is wiser now The truth is, the position of our coast tribes the amphibise-is vastly different to that of the plain Indians on the eastern sidethe one wants sea-water the other land. The plain Indians were removed from their homes huddled together in hordes, and thus their means of subsistence (hunting, etc.) more or less thus taken away and also destroyed by "sportsmen" foreign to them. They therefore required food, implements and so forth from the government, and annually got them.

Can anything the desirability of tailway to the Indians quick as with them. cranks and teach Indians for "his

Victoria, B. C The fud

To THE EDIT possible for a par cussion of any in without any bitte things of a person when nothing is party, and the d to ventilate imp persons who m misleaders insti arda is no argum conviction to the tickle the ear of ions on either s land is not goin if carrying the tion," and it is in a good natur

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Such extension would render access to the Indians quick will render access to the render acce Indians quick and safe in times of trouble with them. with them. More of these communicative cranks and teachers will appear among the Indians for "history repeats itself."

Victoria D. 3. 1885.

Viotoria, B. C., Nov. 3rd, 1885.

The Indian Question.

To THE EDITOR. I think it is quite possible for a person to come to the discussion of an appropriate public question cussion of any important public question without any bitter feelings, or saying hard things of a specially things of a personal character, especially when nothing is to be gained by either party, and the discussion is intended only to ventilate important subjects. Calling persons who may express an opinion, misleaders, instigators, agitators and cowards is no argument, and will not carry conviction to the mind, although it may tickle the ear of some parties. The opinions on either side of this Indian title to land is not going to set le the question as if carrying the force of a "pragmatic sanction," and it is therefore as well to take it in a good natured way.

It is a matter of fact that a large reserve surrounding Metlakahtla has been made for the Thimpsean tribe, but only after much pleading and exhorting of the government by Mr. Duncan to that end, at a time when the intention of the government was to give ten aeres only to each family, regardless of the quality of the soil, or the character of the country.

To my knowledge there are no white misleaders of the Metlawhite middle quite the Metla-kahtlans, friends of theirs have ad-White irror to keep within the law, and to vised them to keep within the law, and to conduct themselves with forbearance and muderation. This is not a mere assertion. I can bring the proof, and I am convinced that in this direction Mr. Dun-has always advised them. "St. convinced that in this direction Mr. Dun-can has always advised them. "Shame!" might indeed be cried; and Mr. Duncan or anybody else might well be called a coward "in hiding," did he or they not stand up manfully for the rights of the Indians whenever an attempt is made to ignore those rights. No white man has ignore those them to set the rule of the man has instigated them. Those Indian proignore them to set the rule of the pro-instigated defiance. Those Indians have vince at deas of right and wrong which have been instilled into their minds by white traders. It is true that British columbia has no adopted an Indian polioy similar to that of Eastern Canada, that does not put her in an impregnable position, but the reverse, and the sooner she deals with the Indian question, the saier and cheaper will it be for her. It is true that the village sites in Vancouver Island were set apart for the Indians. but Is true that age apart for the Indians, but there was no policy for civilizing them, there was no policy for condition, for bettering their condition, or training them to anything good.

No government of British Columbia attempted to establish a school church. No government of British Columbia attempted to establish a school, church, tempted to factory for their instruction. Nothing was done to elevate the Indians. Not until missionaries took up the question of instruction and civilizing was any thing done for their temporal or spiritual

improvement.

On the other hand, the government of Canada has some consideration for the Indians—they aid the missionary with money grants for educational purposes, and in the Northwest instruct them in and in the Northwest Instruct them in farming and other pursuits, but I am afraid that in their sincere efforts to benefit the red man that their aims are thwarted by the selfish indifference of subordinate agents, who may be too much subordinate agents, who may be too much occupied with their private business to attend to that for which they are paid. Many of the people of Victoria will remember the great speech delivered by Lord Dufferin to our best citizens, in which he alluded in a very emphatic way to the unsatisfactory condition of the Indian title in British Columbia. subject was not brought to his notice by Victorians, he evidently felt it to by Victorians, ne evidence ques-be a pressing and important ques-tion or he would not have mentioned tion or he would not have questions deit at a time when other questions demanded more immediate attention. He said "That there could be no doubt that the Indians had a title to the land over which they roamed and which ought to be extinguished." Although those words have not the force of law, yet they are those of an emineut, clear-sighted and astute statesman, and not "blarney for a Victoria mob," who were not thinking of Indians then. We were afflicted with a railway mania, and the governor-general's words on the Indian question could not be intended to conciliate us. The improved condition of the Indians cannot be due to the B. C. Indian policythere was none, beyond that of "masterly inactivity.

No doubt the white men with whom they first came into contact sharpened their appetites for commerce, and if commerce helped to civilize them it was unintentional on the part of the white man. His advent, however, showed them that the results of exertion and labor were of some value; they could see that inter-tribal war was not conducive to hunting and trade, and that it was more profitable to slay wild animals than human beings. Next came the missionary influence and example, and first and foremost among the savage tribes of the north were the labors of Mr. Duncan who made the first attempt to christianize and civilize them. Who first broke down their heathen customs, who first initiated them in skilled labor, who first built schools and churches in that part of the country, who first taught them to respect the laws of the country, who first taught them to live in some degree of comfort, and who first made them tasts the benefits of living or settled, and civilized life. Few, very few, whites gave the Indiana work for the sake of benefiting them but Mr. Duncan did, and with

much anxiety planned and schemed how he could find remunerative employment for them. If they are well off today it is not because the white man tried to make them so, but because he wanted their services and their furs, for which he paid the smallest price possible. The Indians indirectly contribute largely to the provincial revenue, and in a large degree directly to the federal revenue, but I never knew the government do the smallest thing to benefit them, trails for-merly used would be as useful to them as the roads of the white man. When they become voters no doubt side walks and roads, will be made to their doors.

In conclusion, I maintain that the Indians have rights to the soil, and that in saying so I am misleading no one.

W. J. MacDONALD.

Maple Bank Esquinalt British Columbia 5th Nov? 188

My dear Mr. Chyson Two days since I pr you in an invegistered lette from the local bress telation methodealthe affair which i You will have teceived -Herewitte letter from his W houself. From Dr. Helmel from Senator Macdonald, 7 with a leading article who be taken as expressing the Jovernment in Victoria " the Public to regard the ? as yet I have no ne you of what may or ma lieure taken place at M Aself the cable will how overtaken this commun you are able to see it. You arthur Levola