

Maple Bank Esquimalt British Columbia (41/40)  
78<sup>th</sup> November 1886

My dear Mr. Cheson

I am most glad to be able to report to you that active hostilities have not taken place between the Queen's Gunboat and the Metlakahla Indians. H. M. S. Cormorant carried up there a Magistrate's Civil Court, the Indians made no resistance to arrests being made by the police, and prisoners are being brought here to Victoria for trial for obstructing the survey &c. I would draw your attention to the herewith printed matter from yesterday's Colonist. I saw Mr. Duncan and certain Metlakahla Chiefs last evening who have come down to see him, and there is solid foundation for the statement that this persecution of the Indians will lead to a wholesale exodus of the tribes affected into American States Territory. They will have plenty of Law here and very little justice they say judging from what has already taken place.

The letter on Indian Grievances signed by Fort Simpson Indians is I know the unassisted production of an Indian named Edward Marsden the Organist at the Metlakahla Church and Engineer of the tug steamer employed in the Indian Salmon Cannery industry.

If I were to state that the Imperial power here has been invoked on the behalf of a Syndicate of Victorian Land grabbers who are interested in the appropriation of the whole peninsula at Fort Simpson from the Indians there, for a projected town and railway extension, that this syndicate is composed of prominent members of the local Government with

THE INDIAN TROUBLES.—We are informed by the Rev. Wm. Duncan that he is deputed by the Temishean Indians to proceed to Washington and interview President Cleveland and his cabinet with a view to removing the entire nation to Alaska, just beyond the border. If his mission meets with success the Indians will remove "bag and baggage" to the land of "the midnight sun," and luxuriate in Uncle Sam's territory. Mr. Duncan goes east to-morrow morning, and hopes to make the necessary arrangements. The loss would be a serious one to the province.

## Daily Colonist.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 17<sup>th</sup>, 1886.

### The Indians' Grievances.

The following petition from the people of Metlakahla and Fort Simpson, was presented to the captain of H. M. S. Cormorant on her arrival at Metlakahla:—

Sir,—An attempt has been made on behalf of the Dominion and provincial governments to take from us by force part of our patrimony and the inheritance which we received from our fathers. We have reason to believe that this attempt will be renewed and therefore we ask your assistance. We firmly believe that that these lands are ours and that those who would take them are acting illegally. The reasons why we believe this are: That we inherited them; that no surrender of these lands has been made by us to either government, nor has either government made any treaty with us about these lands. Lord Dufferin, when governor general of Canada, told us that in every other province of Canada the Indian title had always been acknowledged and that no government, either provincial or central, had ever claimed a right to deal with an acre until a treaty had been made. We sought for legal advice in the matter from an eminent lawyer in the province. His written opinion, backed by a further legal opinion previously obtained in Canada, bears us out in our claims. We have asked both governments to have the matter settled in the law courts and that we are willing to abide by that decision. Instead of doing this they try to frighten us and to force us to give up our rights. Under these circumstances we appeal to you as captain of one of H. M. ships of war to protect us and our property. Though Indians we are and have been for years loyal subjects of Her Majesty. We have no wish to oppose the law or the authorities. We are only anxious to prevent our possessions from being taken from us, and we know that it is to protect the interests of all, even the poorest of Her Majesty's subjects, that ships of war and soldiers are maintained.

PAUL LEGAIC,

ALFRED DUDOWARD,

MATTHIAS HALDANE,

DANIEL AUBRIOL,

ALBERT SHAKES,

For the people of Metlakahla and Fort Simpson.

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one or two of the Hudson's Bay employees, I should (2  
be stating a fact known to everybody. And were  
I to add perhaps that the Naval Officers of H.M.S  
Cormorant are disgusted at the role they are  
made to play in these arrangements and  
that they have probably returned with more  
respect in their hearts for the Indians, than for  
those who have employed them on such an errand  
I should not presumably be wide of the mark.

That the result of the trials of these Indians should  
be the jealousy looked to by the Imperial Government,  
goes without saying. Could the Indians afford it  
they would send their chiefs to England with an  
humble petition to the Throne. As it is their apparent  
only remedy at Fort Simpson, at Metlakatla  
and elsewhere is to leave for ever the country  
of their fathers to avoid the petty worry and  
persecution of a mercenary Government that  
prostitutes the Imperial power in the name  
of justice, whilst telling civilized Indians  
that they have no rights save in the clemency  
of the Crown. The position is wholly monstrous  
but Victoria, B.C. is a long way from London.  
The Indians say, we must either fight for our  
rights or leave our country for justice we  
cannot find. You deny us the rights of men,  
the United States may grant us the rights  
of free men?

I am dear Mr. Chepou  
Yours truly  
Arthur Wood McCallum.