

'CONSIDER INDIAN VIEW'

Word to the whites

With the Indian land claims controversy heating up again in B.C., one Indian leader in this area is urging white citizens to look at the issue from the Indians' point of view.

Nicholas Prince, chief of the Necasle band council, feels too much time is being wasted arguing about "legal garbage" while not enough attention is being paid to the historical background of the land claims dispute.

In the following article, Prince explains why he feels B.C.'s history since the coming of the white man has been "the story of a continuing rip-off of Indian land."

by NICK PRINCE
Chief of Necasle
band council

Alexander Mackenzie is given credit for being the first white man to reach the Pacific Ocean by land in 1793. But he discovered nothing the Indians didn't know already.

In fact, the Beaver, Sekanis and Carrier Indians didn't know what to make of the poor demented man. Imagine wanting so much to see the big water! The Indians felt sorry for the poor guy. So they showed him the way and brought him back. So what else is new?

And all this was happening on Indian land. Permission had to be acquired to go through inter-tribal boundaries. Such was the law of the land.

I guess old Alex told his cohorts there were furs and game in the area but the stupid natives used only what they needed for food and clothing and for making tools necessary to make life easier in the harsh land.

So old Alex said: "Look, these natives are as innocent as can be. They haven't learned our ways of greed, malice, intoxication or thievery. Let's take all this stuff away from them and become rich and famous."

By gosh, that is exactly what they did. And all of this was happening on Indian land!

Simon Fraser came along and very generously gave snuff to some old Indian ladies at Nakazlie. And he found the natives here were still innocent as can be.

They knew not the ways of the white strangers who came among them. They gave Fraser and his cohorts hospitality. As was their custom, they shared what they had with the strangers until they went away again.

Old Si was pretty cagey. When he got home, he got in touch with his old friend and business crony, George Simpson. And they started scheming.

They said: "These people are peaceful and innocent of our ways. Let's scare the hell out of them and take them for everything we can."

By George, that is exactly what happened! And all this was still happening on Indian land!

Then along came James Douglas. He was a fatherly sort, all smiles and white teeth. He said to Si and Georgie: "You boys have done a good job here. I see these Indians like our booze, snuff and tobacco. You have outdone yourselves in creating distrust and greed."

He took over where they left off and had a real ball. He made sure the Indians were ripped off left, right and centre. More furs, more salmon, more work — more of everything was demanded.

And while the poor innocent Indians were providing

all of this, old Dougie was writing letters to some people back east and in England telling them he had discovered some land and was naming it New Caledonia. Imagine doing this to Indian land!

Then along came the Blackrobes. They were surprised to find that these pagan savages had a belief in the Great Spirit. The Indian people believed in what they had. It wasn't an empty religion.

The Blackrobes said: "These people have a sort of religion and they have proof in their religion. It's all around them. Let's change all that." And, by God, that is exactly what they did!

Meanwhile, time passed and old Douglas moved on to another piece of Indian land on a very large island by the big water. He knocked a few more heads and took more land from the poor innocent Indians.

When he finally left the scene, his followers such as Thomas Robert McInnes sent letters to people in

places that old Dougie had been and they very generously gave away the land even though it didn't belong to them.

I wonder who gave them authority to give away Indian land. The Indians did not give or donate any land to the white strangers who came to beg and eat at our expense.

None of my forefathers had any knowledge of the Indians having given up their land. They did not sign any papers. And the white strangers didn't even fight the Indians for the land.

Can someone bring me proof that this land was sold or given up by the Indians to be distributed by some ignorant white men?

If there is no proof, it surely must be accepted that this land still belongs to us.

This is my answer to all the legal garbage about who owns the land. And I urge white parents to tell their children the true history of the land claims issue, if they dare.



PRINCE: Time wasted

New forester

Prince Rupert district forester Bill Bishop is replacing H.M. Pogue as district forester for the Vancouver forest district.

Bishop was assistant district forester here from 1970 to 1974 before being stationed in Prince Rupert. He will be stationed in the Vancouver district when Pogue retires in May.

Other announcements by the forest service include appointment of Richard

Truant to head management operations in the Prince George forest district.

Truant is currently second-in-charge of the management section of the Prince Rupert forest district. He replaces Bill Granger who moves into the position of assistant district forester here.

Jack Blickert is being assigned to the post of assistant district forester for the Prince Rupert district.

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Marine college wanted

VICTORIA (CP) — A federal fisheries official said Wednesday that British Columbia is the only marine area in the world without a marine college and the provincial government should do something about it.

Capt. Mitchell Gay of Vancouver, chief of the federal fisheries department's marine unit, said the situation is disgraceful because the federal government has \$3 million earmarked for B.C.'s first marine college.

Capt. Gay said Education Minister Pat McGeer should complete the work begun by Mr. Brotherton as soon as possible and not listen to people trying to persuade him to allow Vancouver Community College to have a marine college.