

Commission on Indian Affairs in British Columbia as approved by the Government of the Dominion and the province as a full allotment of reserve lands to be administered for their benefit as part of the compensation.

2. That the province of British Columbia by granting the said reserves as approved shall be held to have satisfied all claims of the Indians against the province.

That the remaining considerations shall be provided and the cost thereof borne by the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

3. That the Government of British Columbia shall be represented by counsel, that the Indians shall be represented by counsel nominated and paid by the Dominion.

4. That, in the event of the court or Privy Council deciding that the Indians have no title in the lands of the province of British Columbia, the policy of the Dominion towards the Indians shall be governed by consideration of their interests and future developments.

So that in any case the Indian stood to win.

It will be remembered that one provision of the 13th clause of the Union negotiations provided that the Dominion should carry out such a policy in the interest of the Indians that would be at least equal to that which had been pursued by the Crown colony prior to 1871. The fact should be emphasized that while the British Columbia Indians are not in possession of a documented treaty, they have always enjoyed the substance of a treaty. Provision has been made for their education; they have been protected on their reserves; irrigation and dyking have received attention and they have been encouraged in agriculture and fruit-growing and in general, the progressive policy, which has governed the Crown in its relation to the natives of other parts of the country, has been extended to the Indians of British Columbia in no unstinted degree.

Further, ever since the province entered the Union, yearly appropriations have been made by Parliament to carry out the policy of the Government with reference to the Indians of British Columbia.

During the last 20 years, \$4,632,288.14 have been expended for Indian purposes in British Columbia, so that as a matter of fact, a policy much more generous than that adopted by the Crown colony has been in operation during the days of Confederation.

A consideration of the foregoing facts has fully satisfied me that the objection to this advanced programme as presented by their counsel before your committee and widely promulgated throughout the country, is groundless, and that the present policy and programme of the Government in its effort to bring them into the rights and privi-

leges of full Canadian citizenship is the policy which will commend itself, not only to the best thinking and most progressive Indians but to their true and real friends throughout the country.

I was strongly impressed with a remark made by Mr. Scott, whether personal or official, I am not prepared to say, but in my opinion it presented the ideal and correct solution of the whole Indian problem, when he stated that he hoped, in time, not in his day, not perhaps for 100 years hence, but some day, in Canada, there would be no Indian problem. The Indians would all be absorbed into the nation and take their place in the social, economic and civic life of the community, and of the state, on a par with all other citizens.

And now, coming to consider the two main provisions of the Bill, let us look at the actual conditions. The Deputy Superintendent General advised your committee that the Reserve Day Schools in the West were practically a failure. The children were kept at home for the slightest reason or excuse. Irregularity in attendance, the bane of all teachers, prevailed everywhere. In fact, teachers were mildly buying the attendance of the children, a ruinous policy, and worse principle. The Deputy Superintendent General further stated that the Indian school system is somewhat peculiar in that the churches co-operate with the department in the work of education and he added:

"I have always been in favour of that, because of the success which has attended the work and which is due in a great measure to the co-operation of the churches."

He further added that in 1910, when Mr. Oliver was minister, he called all the heads of the denominations concerned—the Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Methodists and Presbyterians—to Ottawa and they had a conference, and there has been a decided improvement as a result. The churches are conducting boarding schools under a contract system, the Government then consenting to an increase in the per capita grant, which is not now sufficient to meet the cost of living, but the churches have loyally made up the deficiency out of their own resources.

At that time, Mr. Oliver agreed to spend a certain amount every year in the erection of new buildings and this policy was continued by the Borden Government and Parliament was very generous in its appropriations until the war broke out.

With regard to the Industrial and Boarding Schools as carried on by co-operation