

Hon. Mr. Kinley: If the mother is an Indian I believe the child is considered an Indian; but if the father is an Indian and the mother is a white woman, the child is considered white.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: You may be right. I shall try to get some information on that point.

Hon. Mr. Kinley: It is my impression that the child takes the nationality of the mother.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: That may be so. Indian bands sometimes become very large and they want to divide. It then becomes necessary to apportion the assets, and clause 7 of the bill authorizes the minister to make a division. Previously this was done by the Governor in Council, but it was felt that as this is an administrative matter, it would be more expeditious to have it done through the minister.

Clause 9 of the bill deals with the wording of the document under which an Indian holds his lands. In some places this is referred to as a certificate of possession, and in others as a certificate of occupation. The object of this clause is to extend the operation of the section to location tickets issued under previous legislation.

Clause 11 of the bill relates to the sale of assets belonging to Indians. Suppose, for instance, some Indians decide to sell a portion of their land so that it will be no longer part of the reserve. This sale or surrender will be considered void unless it is assented to by a majority of the electors of the band. Under the present act this voting must now take place at one centre. Under the proposed amendment the acceptance of a surrender may be assented to by referendum.

Hon. Mr. Hackett: Probably that is to meet the requirements of the Caughnawaga Reserve.

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: This legislation provides for a number of such polling places. The Six Nations Reserve near my home city of Brantford is a large one and contains about six or seven thousand Indians. It is not practicable for them to hold a vote at one centre, and the bill provides that a vote can be held at various centres.

There are provisions in the bill to assist in the administration of estates, especially where an intestacy is involved. There is also a provision whereby the department can take over and develop unoccupied lands.

Clause 15 provides that with the consent of the council of a band the minister may authorize the lending of money from the funds of the band to members for housing purposes.

Hon. Mr. Hackett: Did the honourable Leader of the Government say that the moneys which may be loaned to Indians by the minister are moneys that come from the Indian band? Is the money loaned to the band or to individual Indians?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Under this section the money belongs to the band and is held by the Government for the band, and a loan may be made by the minister to an individual Indian for housing purposes, but only with the consent of the council of the band.

Hon. Mr. Hackett: Does the council have to pass upon the individual loans?

Hon. Mr. Macdonald: Yes, on each individual loan; so it is local self-government in that respect.

Honourable senators, I do not know if any further explanation is required. I would be glad to answer questions in connection with any particular clause of the bill. As I have said, most of the amendments deal with the administration of the affairs of the Indians, their funds, personal estates, and so on. I think it is progressive legislation and I have no hesitancy in recommending it to this house.

Hon. R. B. Horner: Honourable senators, I have just a few comments to make about this bill. Allowing Indians access to liquor is more or less of an experiment. I doubt that it will be recommended in the province of Saskatchewan. If I remember correctly, it was shown before the joint committee of both houses which met two or three years before the amendment to the Indian Act was made, that the great majority of the Indians, particularly in Saskatchewan, were opposed to liquor, and opposed to having it taken to the reserve. I hope no tangle will develop as to whether Indians will be allowed to purchase liquor and allowed to take it on the reserve and drink it in their own homes. There have already been innumerable cases of prosecutions for offences as to where liquor was to be consumed, although purchased legally in a Government liquor store.

Great difficulties arise at times with regard to the Indians. Only a few years ago much resentment was caused because some action was taken to expel from the reserve people who, it was claimed, were not Indians and did not belong on the reserve—perhaps some grandfather or some mother claimed that such and such a person was not entitled to a share in living on the reserve, because he was not legally an Indian on the reserve. Finally the matter settled down, and I think some agreement was come to.

I would like to see the Government deal with the Indians in perhaps a more generous