

settle finally and in a just and equitable manner all claims or grievances which have arisen thereunder.

2. Band Membership.

To replace the definition of "Indian" which has been statutory since 1876, there must be a new definition more in accord with present day conditions. Parliament annually votes moneys to promote the welfare of Indians. This money should not be spent for the benefit of persons who are not legally members of an Indian band.

Your committee believes that a new definition of "Indian" and the amendment of those sections of the Act which deal with band membership will obviate many problems.

Your committee recommends that, in the meantime, the Indian Affairs Branch should undertake the revision of existing band membership lists.

3. Liability of Indians to Pay Taxes.

Your committee recommends the clarification of those sections of the Act which deal with the exemption from taxation of an Indian's real and personal property on a reserve.

Your committee, however, is of opinion that Indians should continue to pay taxes on any income earned by them off, i.e., away from their reserve, even though they do reside on or have an interest in a reserve.

4. Enfranchisement of Indians, both Voluntary and Involuntary.

The revised Indian Act should, in the opinion of your committee, contain provisions to clarify the present rules and regulations regarding enfranchisement.

5. Eligibility of Indians to Vote at Dominion Elections.

As part of the education and preparation of the Indian to assume his place in the Canadian body politic, your committee recommended, on May 6 last, that "voting privileges for the purpose of Dominion elections be granted to Indians on the same status as electors in urban centres". This is a matter which, in the opinion of your committee, should be referred to a special committee on the Dominion Elections Act, with a view to early implementation of the recommendation.

It is realized that many Indians are not anxious to have or to use the franchise, under the misapprehension that, if they do exercise it, they will lose what they consider their rights and privileges.

Many Indians who do not have the right to vote at Dominion elections do pay taxes on income earned away from the reserve, together

with sales tax, gasoline tax, excise tax, et cetera. This is taxation without representation.

It is the opinion of your committee that it would encourage Indians, particularly the younger ones, to interest themselves in public affairs, if they were given the privilege already recommended. Your committee is further of opinion that the public generally would thus be given a better appreciation of Indian affairs.

6. Encroachment of White Persons on Indian Reserves.

Your committee recommends that the revised Act contain provisions to prevent persons other than Indians from trespassing upon or frequenting Indian reserves for improper purposes.

7. The Operation of Indian Schools.

Your committee recommends the revision of those sections of the Act which pertain to education, in order to prepare Indian children to take their place as citizens.

Your committee, therefore, recommends that wherever and whenever possible Indian children should be educated in association with other children.

8. Social and Economic Status of Indians and their Advancement.

Your committee recommends that the government consider the advisability of granting a pension to aged, blind or infirm Indians. This is in addition to recommendations previously made with regard to the social and economic advancement of Indians.

9. Indian Administration in General.

In 1946 and again in 1947 the Joint Committee on the Indian Act made recommendations with regard to

"administrative improvements which could be effected without the revision of existing legislation and which, when put into effect, would remove some of the causes out of which arise grievances and complaints of many Indians".

There are still some "administrative improvements" which your committee deems advisable.

Your committee, therefore, again recommends that the administration of all aspects of Indian affairs be placed under one ministerial head.

Your committee reiterates the recommendation made by the 1947 Joint Committee of the Indian Act, viz:

"10. The Director of the Indian Affairs Branch . . . should be named a commissioner who shall have the rank of a deputy minister and shall have at least two assistant commissioners of whom one should be a Canadian of Indian descent".