

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I put the motion to the committee to find out those who favour that suggestion?

Mr. MACNICOL: That is for the next two meetings only?

The CHAIRMAN: For the next two meetings only.

Mr. GARIEPY: That is the two sittings on Tuesday and one on Thursday.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, two sittings on Tuesday which would be at eleven o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon; and one on Thursday which would be at eleven o'clock in the morning. All those in favour with that suggestion? Contrary? I declare the motion carried unanimously. Shall we now proceed?

Mr. CASE: Mr. Chairman, I think we should watch carefully the recommendations that were made. I should like to take two or three minutes to review them in the presence of Major MacKay. I refer to the recommendations which were placed before us the other day.

The CHAIRMAN: I presume we are now proceeding with Major MacKay?

Mr. CASE: Yes, and I am going to review briefly what he said the other day.

The CHAIRMAN: Just before you proceed, now that we are going to call him as witness, I understand that Major MacKay has something that he would like to say in reply to a question raised by Mr. Bryce at the meeting we had on Tuesday.

Major D. M. MacKay, Commissioner for Indian Affairs for British Columbia, recalled:

The WITNESS: I think, Mr. Bryce, you asked a question at the last session of the committee as to what number of Indian children were in grade VIII of the 12,000 children under seventeen years of age in British Columbia. I think probably what you intended to ask was the number of children in grade VIII between the ages of seven and sixteen; which, of course, is the range of school age children in the Indian schools. Is that what you meant?

Mr. BRYCE: Yes, how many had reached grade VIII.

The WITNESS: Yes. Well, 87, during the current academic year, which of course runs to the end of June.

Mr. MACNICOL: Out of how many?

The WITNESS: Out of 4,000 enrolments. I think there are very close to 4,100 Indian children enrolled in schools in British Columbia. That is somewhat in conflict with the figures given to you by the Director of Indian Affairs; but I think his figures were for the year ending March 31, 1945.

Mr. MATTHEWS: That means then about 8,000 not enrolled?

The WITNESS: 8,000 not enrolled, but a good many of those would be under school age.

Mr. MATTHEWS: I thought you said there were 12,000 under seventeen—you mean right down to babyhood?

The WITNESS: Yes.

Mr. GIBSON: Do most of the children get a grade VIII education?

The WITNESS: They all have an opportunity of obtaining that grade. Mr. Bryce might be interested in knowing, and the committee also, that 142 were in grade VII, 261 in grade VI and 382 in grade V. It might be of interest also