

Nations withdrew from the conference at Sarnia in 1871 when the government called the Indian conference for the adoption of the Indian Act. Consequently they never became a party which gave their approval to this law.

Then later on, in 1924 the Canadian government, with the use of force of arms, dissolved the Six Nation government. That was one of the blackest acts in Canadian history. That was a type of government foreign to us, which was called the elective council. Our people have never supported this change and I do not think they ever will. And now, when coming down to this present committee and the dissolution of the chiefs and the appointment of the elective council I have to say this. It was the result of an investigation by the Canadian government through Colonel Andrew Thompson, and his report to the government. He was authorized to inquire and investigate into the affairs of the Six Nations Indians, including matters of education, health, morality, election of chiefs, powers assumed by the council. Administration, and soldier settlement were also included.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What are you reading from now?—A. Colonel Thompson's report on the investigation of the Six Nations.

Q. What is the date of that?—A. 1923.

Q. Does it state the department who issued it, so that we can have it for record purposes?—A. It was issued by the Department of Indian Affairs.

Q. All right.—A. He was authorized to investigate the Six Nations on seven points but the most important point was omitted, that is the status of the Six Nations, who they are and what they are. He had no authority to investigate the most important point and he makes this remark on page 13.

For some considerable time past there has been strong agitation to have the Six Nations constituted as a separate sovereign people. Those supporting this course allege that in the wording of several earlier treaties the Six Nations are not subjects but are allies of the British Crown. The investigation of the merits of this condition was not one of the duties assumed by me and I merely mention it in connection with the powers assumed by the council.

As the result of this investigation with limited powers we had a change in government of our people without the consent or the feeling of the people. Now the Six Nation Indians, as I have said, have refused and have always maintained that they never legally came under the Indian Act. And I further cannot say whether they will accept the revision of the Indian Act. You will ask me why, gentlemen. Let me put it this way. Supposing we were allowed to appoint thirty or thirty-five Indians to a committee, would any of you gentlemen be willing to place the future destiny of your people in the hands of a committee of thirty Indians? Now I have tried to make clear the position of the Six Nations. I think what I have said here speaks for itself. I have many other articles here of how the Six Nations have been used. Take for instance, the national registration. These are the instructions issued by the national registration department, issued to all deputy registrars.

Mr. CASE: What is the date of that?

The WITNESS: 1940, the 15th of July.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. What document is it again?—A. Pardon?

Q. What document is it?—A. Instructions issued to deputy national registrars.

Q. Under what act?