

occupies in that extremely important division of our administration. The church is mainly interested I should say in the residential school system. We have some thirteen residential schools in the province of British Columbia; fifty-five full-time day schools and thirteen seasonal schools.

Of the day schools 15 are closed at the moment for lack of teachers and other reasons. One of the other reasons is lack of pupils. The present attendance at day schools of the Indians is placed at 1,638 and for the residential schools, 2,014. In other words we have 3,650 children attending school in the province of British Columbia and although I have not the exact figures I should say that we must have in that province close to 1,200 children for whom no education facilities have been provided. Of the 55 day schools I would say that almost half of them are in need of extensive repairs or replacement and we probably are in need of 20 additional new day schools.

There have been some criticisms of the place the church occupies in Indian education, quite a bit of it from provincial and other bodies interested in education. I should say that the various churches made a great contribution to Indian education and welfare over the years, yet there has been and continues to be evidence of growing dissatisfaction with respect to the position of the church in that division of our administration.

There was some criticism of it at the Indian Brotherhood Convention at Fort Simpson this spring. The Indian Brotherhood is one of the organizations, perhaps the only organized Indian group, we have in the province of British Columbia.

I should say that wider opportunities should be given to Indian children to attend white day schools. We did open the way for them as much as possible and the department has greatly encouraged us in that direction. I cannot recall a single instance where there has been an application by an Indian to me submitted to the department for higher education and assistance in attending white schools that has been turned down by the department.

Mr. MATTHEWS: The provincial department?

The WITNESS: No, the Indian Affairs branch here in Ottawa. One of our difficulties in the matter of education in recent years has been the lack of adequate and intelligent direction because of the absence of inspection of Indian schools in the province of British Columbia. For a few years following the retirement of our inspector, our schools were inspected by provincial inspectors. I understand that that is the system employed in other parts of Canada. The provincial inspectors no doubt made quite a contribution but it has been a side issue with them. They have their own duties to perform and this was an additional burden placed on them. They have their own schools to inspect and they took on ours. They did it because they were interested in extending that assistance to us. I miss greatly the contact that I formerly had with our own inspectors. We have had the two systems in operation in the province of British Columbia, one where we had our own inspector and the other where the provincial inspector inspected the schools. I say that there is a lack of contact in having the provincial inspectors inspecting the schools that an executive enjoys in having an inspector appointed by the branch to do the work. He is a member of the commissioners' staff and he is available to him from time to time on the matter of educational matters that arise.

Something like 17 or 18 provincial inspectors inspected the schools for a year or so and very few came to the office to discuss Indian education with me, so we miss, as I said a moment ago, the contact that we formerly had and were accustomed to with the man who was a full-time employee of the department and charged with the responsibility of inspecting Indian schools.

I said a moment ago that there was some opposition to the position of the church in Indian education. There is some dissatisfaction with the residential