

(2) The Minister may at any time by order exempt a band and the members thereof or any member thereof from the operation of this section, and may revoke any such order.

Mr. HATFIELD: Why is this applied to the reserves in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Northwest territories and the Yukon Territory?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: That only applies to those because that is all it ever has applied to. In the Indian Act as of today there has been this prohibition against Indians in these territories disposing of their crop or produce without a permit. The permit system has never applied to Indians on other reserves. And the improvement we have made in that section is in the addition of subsection 2, whereby we give the minister power to exempt any band or member from the operation of that section. In other words, the minister may now, if this is passed, grant an exemption to a band in these provinces so the members may sell their grain, cattle and produce and the like, without having to get a permit so to do.

Mr. MURRAY: In British Columbia we have a number of co-operatives and many Indians are members of certain co-operatives, for instance, in selling fish.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: This does not apply to them.

Mr. MURRAY: I think they should be encouraged to join co-operatives, quite apart from the Indian council.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Yes, this is just to enable the individual Indian to sell his own produce.

Mr. SIMMONS: I do not know why we should have this in there with respect to some of that area because cattle and grain are not raised there.

Mr. HATFIELD: That applies to the Indians in the West, why does it not apply to the reserves in eastern Canada?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: This was a restriction placed upon the Indians in the Northwest a very long time ago because in some cases it was found that proper prudence was not being practised by the Indians in their dealings, with the result that this permit system was introduced to make sure that their money was saved to some extent.

Mr. HATFIELD: I think it will be a very great necessity in eastern Canada.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: It is not a question of necessity, it is more a question of improvidence, perhaps.

Mr. HATFIELD: Well then, what is to stop four or five Indians going to a pulp buyer and making a deal with him and going on to a large reserve and cutting 10 or 15 cords of pulp wood? They could go in and nobody would know anything about it and make an arrangement with the pulp buyer for instance to sell him this pulp wood. For instance, a band of Indians, let us say four or five Indians, might get together, and there would be nothing to prevent them from cutting pulp and bringing it out and piling it on the main road where the pulp buyer could arrange to pick it up. What is to stop that sort of thing?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: You are speaking of pulp buyers going to Indians on the reserve and buying pulp from them, but cut from their own lots?

Mr. HATFIELD: No, no.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: There is no objection, of course to Indians cutting pulp from their own land, so I do not see how this would apply to New Brunswick.

Mr. HARKNESS: I would suggest that it would be a good idea to encourage the Indians to join the wheat pools or the co-operative associations.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Well, they are doing that, but this was originally intended to afford some control over the Indian taking his grain and selling it without regard to its value, and more particularly without regard to his own obligations.