

British North America Act, I think, British Columbia is the only province about which it was stated, when they entered into confederation, that Indians were mentioned in the British North America Act. There was an understanding which was written into the Act that the care of Indians by the dominion government would be as generous as that provided by the province of British Columbia before it entered confederation. The information I would like to get, I would just like to know, how British Columbia treated the Indians previous to confederation. They must have been treated very well or that would not have been enacted in the British North America Act. I would like to have what information I can procure some time in the future.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we can take that as a request Mr. Reid which we will refer to Mr. Hoey, and Mr. MacInnis, when we have him come back before this committee that question will be put to him, if agreeable to all of you.

Mr. CASE: Mr. Hoey has said that he would like to have particulars as to whom we would like to hear. Is that to be left to the steering committee to determine?

The CHAIRMAN: Those witnesses who will be brought before the committee, as I understand it, are being considered by the subcommittee.

Mr. CASE: That is all right.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further comments and if it is your pleasure we will proceed to hear Major MacKay, the Indian Commissioner for British Columbia. Before we call him may I request that you will withhold any questions, as is our practice, until Major MacKay has completed his submission. We are going to change our procedure somewhat in view of the fact that Major MacKay has come from British Columbia and we will not be able to have him back again. We will hold a special meeting this afternoon at 4 o'clock when you will be privileged to ask him any questions that you have thought of in the meantime or any other matters that may arise in your minds. Major MacKay will not be here long so that any questions you would like to put to him we would like you to be prepared to put today.

Mr. CHARLTON: Would yourself or Major MacKay tell the committee his exact status.

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

The CHAIRMAN: If it is agreeable I will ask you a few preliminary questions. You are the Commissioner for British Columbia on Indian Affairs?

The WITNESS: Yes sir.

Mr. MACNICOL: Provincial or federal?

The WITNESS: Federal.

The CHAIRMAN: How long have you been with the department?

The WITNESS: Ten years.

The CHAIRMAN: And what is your particular position? What are your duties?

The WITNESS: I have the administrative control of Indian affairs in British Columbia and I report direct to the Indian Affairs Branch at Ottawa. Under me I have some seventeen agents in charge of the various agencies of the province.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there an agency in every reserve?