

Indian Act

boys". Well, I have never promised them a liquor permit although I am not against their having these permits. I am telling you, however, and I have told these people, the first thing I would fight for was an opportunity for them to make a living.

Mr. Nowlan: Have you succeeded?

Mr. Hardie: I am trying right now and I hope you support me.

An hon. Member: You are doing all right.

Mr. Gillis: You are keeping your promise.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, there is another problem that bothers the Indian in the country. When they do get employment with the government, whether it is with the Department of Northern Affairs or the Department of Citizenship and Immigration or some other department, they are not paid in the same manner as civilians who are sent into the country from the outside. For instance, we have Indians who are hired as patrolmen. A patrolman is a very necessary person because usually the government sends in game wardens from Ottawa, Vancouver or Edmonton and they do not know where the Indians are living and they have to have someone to take them around. Therefore we have patrolmen.

The patrolmen are paid \$175 a month—perhaps it runs from \$150 to \$175 or \$185 a month—and they are given a cost of living bonus of \$60 a month. Now, that sounds pretty good. The game wardens, however, are paid \$3,250 per year and \$1,500 a year cost of living bonus or \$125 a month. The Indian is just as human as the white man and needs as much to eat. The patrolman should have the same amenities as the game warden. Why are they paying the Indian patrolman \$60 a month as against the white man's \$125? I cannot understand it at all. These people live in the same village and it costs them the same amount to live. As a matter of fact, it costs the Indian more to live than the white man because the white man who is sent in from Ottawa to act as game warden receives \$3,250 a year plus \$1,500 cost of living bonus, plus a \$25,000 house, plus maple furniture, plus fuel oil, plus lights and all the rest of it. What do you think he pays for that? He pays about \$28 a month for it. The patrolman, however, is perhaps living in a house with his wife and six kids. The oldest one is perhaps married and has not a home of his own and he may be living in the same house with his wife and all his kids. There are perhaps 12 people or more living in one or two rooms.

This brings me around to the subject of housing. I have heard it said the department

of Indian affairs are improving housing conditions for native Indians in the northwest territories. They have improved about two houses in each of these communities. I had a man come to me last fall, a man who had just been released from the hospital after being confined there with tuberculosis for four years. When I was home last year he came to me and told me he was living at Trout Rock, about 40 miles away, where he had a house with a leaking roof. He told me he had asked the Indian agent to give him some roofing for the house but he was refused. I believe the Indian agent told him to come to me about it—yes, I believe he said, "Go over and see your pal Hardie". Apparently I am the Indian agent now. Well, if they want me to be the Indian agent I want to be paid for it. At any rate the fellow was sent to see me.

An hon. Member: Do you want the bonus too?

Mr. Hardie: I went to see the agent. I explained that this man had come out of a sanatorium after three or four years, and found that the roof of his house was leaking. His wife could not repair the house while he was away. The roof had to be fixed and he wanted some roofing, but it is like pulling teeth to get two rolls of roofing out of the Indian agent. Not only is the Indian pulling teeth but I am also trying to pull teeth.

The Chairman: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but I am obliged to advise him that his time has expired.

Mr. Thatcher: Mr. Chairman, I want to preface my remarks on this Indian bill by saying that there is not a single Indian in my constituency; nevertheless, I am not too enthusiastic about the legislation which is before us tonight.

As hon. members know, the main purpose of this bill is to increase credit facilities for Indians. I am sure every hon. member in this house will sympathize with the principle of that legislation. I can readily understand, with the Indian population increasing and prices going up, that better credit facilities for Indians are needed. Frankly, however, I am not convinced the legislation which is before us tonight is the best way to give Indians better credit facilities.

I cannot help wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the government is not setting up too many different branches of government for the purpose of loaning money. Earlier today we had a bill which was passed for the purpose of loaning money to farmers. If one wishes to build a house in Canada today the government will loan money under the National Housing Act. It may loan under the Fisheries