

*Indian Act*

get some things done. I know there are opportunities being lost on many of the reserves because advantage of those opportunities has not been taken. I know there are some reserves that have a lot of good agricultural land which is not being used. Other reserves have good timber on them and the timber could be sawed up and made into lumber to help provide homes. I think the Indians should be encouraged to do for themselves. I have perhaps made some enemies amongst the Indians because when I have gone up to see them I have said, "You cannot expect the government to do everything. You people have to do your own share and accept some of the responsibility. You have to develop an interest in bettering your own condition and if you will do that you will receive assistance from the government. If the government gives you a few cattle and you let them starve to death you will not receive any more help. You have to do your share." I think all of us should be talking to the Indians in that manner and not just going amongst them trying to stir up trouble for the department.

As I said before, the houses in my constituency are in such a bad condition most people would not keep their dogs in them. I think it is a shame in a great country like this that we cannot move forward a little faster than we are. I know it is a serious problem and the problem is not always helped by the Indians themselves. When the bill comes down I will have more to say.

When the amendments to the act come down I hope we will find that something is being done for the younger generation. I think a lot of the older Indians are fixed in their ways and there is not much hope of getting them out of the rut they are in. I feel sorry when I see dozens of young men and women coming to our towns and villages looking for work. When the white men ask them what they can do, the work they can mention is limited. Some of them are learning to drive trucks but frequently they cannot handle a combine. Some of them are slowly beginning to learn how to do various jobs. I think something must be done to teach the young people how to earn a living. That is one of the biggest jobs confronting the minister. I have assured him before and I will assure him now that he will have my full co-operation in any measures he undertakes.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, I want to take only about two minutes. On the one subject that is specifically mentioned in the resolution I think I can say that every member of the committee who has spoken so far has been in agreement with it except the hon.

[Mr. Campbell.]

member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre who felt it was unnecessary to have these credit facilities because there are all sorts of credit facilities available to other Canadians. On that point I would like to say, as I am sure most members of the committee are aware, it is not possible for Indians to hypothecate their property and it is not possible to seize the property of Indians in payment of debts, as is the case with other people. That is the reason and the only reason why some arrangement for credit to Indians has to be made as long as they have this special status.

I want to mention just one other thing. While I do not want to do anything that suggests cutting off any hon. member who wishes to speak, I wonder if it would be possible for those members of the committee who still wish to speak to make their speeches fairly short because we will have lots of time on second reading. There will be no—

**Mr. Knowles:** Closure?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** There will be no closure on second reading or in the committee when the whole bill will be before us. At that time it will be possible for hon. members to address their speeches more directly to the bill. I want to set that example at this time. I have listened to everything that has been said. I will confine my remarks to this statement and try to reply to the other points when second reading comes up.

**Mr. Charlton:** Mr. Chairman, judging from what the minister has said one would assume there is not to be any closure on this bill. If he had given that assurance earlier we might not have taken so much time on the resolution but we were fearful that closure might be brought forward and we wanted to say what we could at the resolution stage.

**Mr. Knowles:** The minister has a reputation.

**Mr. Charlton:** Mr. Chairman, I want first of all to commend the hon. member for Brantford on his excellent speech with regard to the Six Nations Indians. I agree with most of what he said. I made similar statements in the House of Commons before regarding the place the Indians have held in the history of this great nation. This is a thing very few people realize unless they are living in close contact with an Indian reservation and have an opportunity of hearing some of the talks that are given by Indian historians. We have some very good ones around Brantford and I have listened to them on many occasions.

I want to add one comment to what the hon. member for Brantford has said. I heard