

Supply—Indian Affairs

people and visit some of our small communities during the winter months when the days are short and the weather cold. I hope he may have the opportunity to sit down and talk with the people I have referred to, the social workers and administrators and members of community councils, so that he may see another aspect of northern Canada. I am not critical, but I do not think the minister has had the opportunity to do this. If he wants an itinerary I should be delighted to make one up for him.

May I quote a few words from the maiden speech of Professor Robert Williamson delivered at the territorial council meeting at Keewatin in the Northwest Territories. He was referring to the development of the northern peoples and their country and he said:

Depend on it, then, that elsewhere in the world we are being watched. In this context, certainly our responsibilities here are great, but because of our present stage of constitutional development this situation also points the finger of decision directly at the federal minister. With the support of his cabinet and parliamentary colleagues, he has it within his reach to go down in history as the man who made possible the proud standing-forth of the northern people and the sound completion of our confederation.

● (5:20 p.m.)

In this he can be sure of the thoughtful and vigorous support of the north. Against this background, then, we might well say "The world is watching you, Arthur Laing".

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Chairman, we heard this afternoon many things about the Northwest Territories and, in my opinion, among all the fine speeches delivered on the matter, those of the main representatives of the north, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange) have retained our attention the most.

The representative for Yukon has the habit of interesting us by what he says, no matter how, and I was greatly surprised by his remarks. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, it would be really interesting to see him—if that ever happens—at the head of a province called the Yukon.

But I would like here to make a suggestion to him which might settle many problems or bring a solution to several problems, which arise now concerning the Yukon. It would be to join this territory to the province located to the south, British Columbia. With a creditist administration, a modern administration, the member for Yukon could obtain many solutions to all the problems which arise.

[Mr. Orange.]

I was also much interested in the proposals and suggestions made by the hon. member for the Northwest Territories, and I had the opportunity last summer to visit the territories with the committee; that trip was really an eye-opener.

One is sometimes disappointed at first when visiting that vast area of our country, but after analysing it and talking with local people one sees things in a new light and soon becomes aware of all the future prospects in the Northwest Territories.

I am sure that the suggestions of the member for that large riding will be fully looked into and will not be ignored.

We also realize the importance of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, when we think that this year the minister is asking us to vote some estimates amounting to \$177,957,600, that is an increase of \$26 million over last year. We thus realize the importance of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, and the citizens of the southern part of the country can increasingly look towards the north where can be noted various developments which are beginning to enhance the beauty and advantages of the Northwest Territories.

During the trip which I had the privilege to make during the summer, I was in a position to find out that there is a lack of communication between the officials, namely the white men, and the natives, namely the Indians and Eskimos.

In some of the localities we visited, there was a closer approach which seemed beneficial; on the other hand, in some others, we noticed that the Indians and Eskimos seemed quite remote from the administration. What struck me the most, was that the communities farther north seemed to be the ones where the Eskimos were participating to a greater extent in the administration of their council and their area. As we were getting to the communities further south of the territories, we noticed that it was just the opposite.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the minister will admit that in appointing or inviting officials to go and work in those territories or communities, we should give a very special attention to their selection, so as to encourage the Eskimos and Indians to provide for their own needs, to administer their own affairs and to participate to a greater extent in the administration of their community or territory.

I have come to the conclusion that Eskimos and Indians of the Northwest Territories have a greater need for missionaries who adapt