

*Northern Affairs and National Resources*

to say that I think the conscience of the people who have been exploiting the native population is improving, if I may use that word. Certainly the conscience of the public has become aroused with respect to the depredations of those people who would make personal profits at the expense of human rights.

Our responsibilities to the Eskimos are nonetheless real because they are difficult to discharge. The difficulties are caused by inaccessibility, climate and the habits and customs of the Eskimo. I need scarcely say to members of the house who probably know me as well as I know them that I am very interested in the education of Eskimo children. In that sphere there will have to be a bold and imaginative program. It will have to be a program of sympathy and understanding.

The other day I was pleased to hear the fine tribute paid to the Eskimo people by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew), and to note the interest felt and expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), when he commended to the house the academic record of a very fine Eskimo student. When most of us think of the Eskimos I believe we are inclined to think of a people living along the shores of the sea or along the shores of bays and deriving their living largely from the fish they catch and the fur-bearing animals that prey upon the fish. That is not quite correct because there is a hinterland, and in that hinterland there are in existence what one might call inland Eskimos whose ways of life are somewhat different from those of the Eskimos who live along the seacoast.

That brings me to a startling book written a year or two ago called "People of the Deer". I think it is apt that I bring this book to the attention of the house as well as of the minister and his officials. The fact that there were inland Eskimos who had grave problems is brought vividly to the attention of the Canadian public through the publication of this book by Mr. Farley Mowat. By a strange coincidence my hon. friend to my right has a copy of that book upon his desk now. Perhaps the fact that he has a copy of it confirms the opinion I expressed a while ago that the existence of the book is of importance in connection with this subject.

The author of the book is a young man whose work, I believe, is growing in popularity. I see that he has had some stories published in the United States. Again, by coincidence, he is known to me because he received his high school training in my own city. This book by Farley Mowat caused a great deal of controversy, and it is really a

terrible—and I am using a mild word—indictment of the authorities who are at present responsible for Eskimo affairs. It describes what happened to a small inland tribe of Eskimos known as the Ihalmiuts. Hon. members will pardon my pronunciation, but they will understand that my education in the Eskimo language has been neglected. He asserts that this tribe was wiped out by actual starvation and that the authorities had considered much too lightly reports furnished by himself and other scientists upon that particular situation. He says that the relief, when provided, was too late and inadequate and of the wrong kind.

The book points out that by way of relief these Eskimos were given employment in certain private fishing industries and that when, as sometimes happens, these industries failed, due to a lack of markets or for some other cause, the Eskimos were left to their own resources and found themselves in a much worse position than they had been before. They were divorced from their usual way of life and their dependence upon the caribou or, as Mr. Mowat has described them, the deer. It is this dependence which gives Mr. Mowat the title for his book, "People of the Deer". He places great stress upon the need for the preservation of the caribou herd, a point to which the department might well give serious consideration.

I believe at the present time there is some co-operation between the provinces and the federal government in this matter of preservation. I know my own province has co-operated. A limit has been placed upon the number of caribou that can be taken and, so far as I am concerned, I would hope that the killing of caribou would be completely prohibited so far as tourists are concerned, particularly those who come in by aeroplane and are most destructive of this food which should be available for the Eskimos.

I must be fair in what I say and point out that Mr. Mowat's book was vigorously attacked in certain quarters, notably in a review by one A. E. Porsild, for a long time a senior official of the Department of Mines and Resources. Mr. Mowat was accused of mixing a good deal of fiction with fact. I do not think he expected his book to be looked upon as a completely scientific treatise. He was writing fiction. But if the facts upon which his fiction was based were as he has given them, then I say they do form a strong indictment of the handling of Eskimo affairs.

I was none too happy or too satisfied with answers to questions I placed on the order paper during the last parliament in regard to the matter. To my mind those answers