

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

the conviction was upheld. I should like to know something of the present law as set out in the jurisprudence in connection with such hunting rights.

The major matter I wanted to bring to the attention of the minister is in complimenting him—and I very seldom indulge in that unless there is very good reason for it—upon the interest he is showing in the Indians. I should like to join with him and with other hon. members in assuring the Indians of Canada of our appreciation of their contribution in war and in peace, and join with them in asking to have set aside a day in 1967 to be known as Indian day.

In wartime, in every part of this nation we pay our tribute to the Indian contribution. The Minister of Industry in his period of service no doubt came in contact with many of the Indian race. They served gallantly. They sacrificed and suffered as few other Canadians did, in proportion to the population. They made their contribution. They are still making it. I join with them in asking the Government of Canada to bring about the setting aside of one day in confederation year, in which we can, as Canadians in every part of this nation do honour to these people who, with their forebears, did so much for us. Indeed, were it not for the contribution in 1812 and again, earlier, in 1775 and 1776, those portions of Canada under the British Crown might very well have been lost. They did their part, and we do them only appropriate honour by setting aside such a day for them. One thinks of Tecumseh and, in more modern days, of those on the western plains who stood by the British Crown in the darkest days. We think of them, too, in the first world war and in the second world war. In both wars they made a contribution which deserves special commendation. Too often their contribution is forgotten.

● (5:00 p.m.)

The minister has shown a commendable interest in their welfare and Canadians as a whole will join in giving every support to assuring these people not only of their rights but also of the honour which is due to them. When I was prime minister we brought about the granting of the franchise to them, too long denied. The Eskimos, also, as a result of a private bill by the hon. member for Yukon, were given the benefit of the franchise. Some of the Indians are fearful of exercising it because they have been led to believe they would thereby lose their treaty rights. But

more and more of them are casting their votes in elections and doing so in an intelligent way.

They could never hope to have representation in parliament in normal circumstances, except in the other place, and one of the things I advocated over the years was the appointment of an Indian to the Senate. On my recommendation Chief Gladstone was appointed to that body and he has given to the Indians a representation which was denied to them by all administrations prior thereto.

I would urge upon the minister once more that at the earliest possible date an announcement be made. They ask that a day be set aside. They have the right to that.

Now, with regard to the rock Mistaseni, I find it hard to understand the reason the historical society would hold the view that this rock is not of historical importance. We cannot go back far in history, but certainly when Kelsey made his first trip—and he was the first white man to see the plains of central Saskatchewan and, possibly, Alberta, in the 1600's—that rock was then a sacred place for Cree Indians. They regarded it as possessing particular magical qualities. That rock will be lost to all generations unless action is taken.

Moving it will be costly. Representations have been made by the hon. member for Moose Mountain, the hon. member for Saskatoon and the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar. I join with them. These historic things of our heritage, once lost, can never be recovered. This is a large rock. I think it is of great historical importance—and I have spent some years reading the history of the Indians in the west. This is why I listened with some surprise to the suggestion that it is not an historical monument. If the entire rock cannot be preserved, then at least a considerable portion of it can. This rock means much to the Cree people, and I make a special appeal that action be taken to preserve it for future generations. If the waters of the Saskatchewan cover it up, it will be lost.

Few of our historical monuments have been preserved. We have been recreant in this regard. Let us not lose the one monument which the Indians have in what is now the province of Saskatchewan. Let us not lose this for future generations. I join with the hon. member for Skeena in his adherence to the need for action to be taken, so that the Indians many not forget their heritage. Remembering it, learning of it, they will be proud of it.