

must bear in mind that the Dominion of Canada is spending a great deal of money on them.

Miss MACPHAIL: It is their country.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It is their own money.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Possibly that charge may be laid too, but hon. members do not want the Indians to remain in the condition in which they are to-day; they expect the department to show some progress with them. That is what we are endeavouring to bring about, and we are simply asking for authority to control a situation that is very serious from the standpoint of administration. There are two things that do more to injure the Indians than any others. One of them is liquor, and it is the worst influence in any community. If my hon. friend thinks an Indian can loiter around a pool room without coming into contact with liquor, all I can say is that she does not know the Indian as well as I do. The proper place for an Indian is on a reserve or in a school. Neither the white man nor the Indian gets much good out of his association with a pool room.

Miss MACPHAIL: If we are going to discuss what is the proper place for an Indian, then we should say at once that it would be to allow him to live his natural life. We have made that impossible. I do not want the impression to be gathered that I should like the Indian to have liquor or to be in a pool room, but by saying how long he is to remain in it and that he must get out at a certain time we are putting into the hands of some official a great deal of power which may be used in a very high-handed way. If the Indian race is a degenerate race, I am afraid that the whole effort is wasted. It may or may not be that a remnant of the race can be saved; I am not convinced one way or the other.

Mr. FRASER: You are imposing a penalty on the pool room proprietor for allowing an interdicted Indian to play pool. How is the pool room proprietor to know that the Indian is interdicted? Are you going to placard the Indian?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): You do not placard an interdict for liquor.

Mr. COOTE: I did not ask for an explanation of this section with the idea of opposing it. I did hope that the minister would explain the first few lines of it. It seems to me it needs a little explanation, at least, to one who may not be familiar with the act. It says:

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

Where it is made to appear in open court that any Indian, summoned before such court, by inordinate frequenting of poolroom either on or off an Indian reserve.

I wonder if there is any provision in the law for summoning an Indian because he frequents a pool room too much. That was the point that I thought needed explanation. While on my feet, let me say that no one regrets more than I do seeing these young Indians spending so much time around pool rooms. It is possibly because we have not completed our job of educating them, and have turned them loose from the schools without providing a place for them to go. For fear I may have been misunderstood, I want to say that I have visited quite a number of these industrial schools and have a great admiration for the men and women who are teaching in them. They are doing a fine work, the very best they can. My whole criticism is that our system does not go far enough. It does not carry the Indian up until he has reached the age of manhood or maturity. Perhaps the minister would make a very brief explanation of just how he is going to summon the Indian into court; and is there any act under which a judge can say that the Indian is spending an inordinate amount of time in the pool room?

Mr. CHAPLIN: What is inordinate?

An hon. MEMBER: Ten hours a day.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I think my hon. friend gets a pretty fair explanation from the wording of the clause itself. The act will make it an offence, not a criminal offence, for which you can summon the Indian to appear in court, and the magistrate will be the judge of what is inordinate. If the Indian is loitering away his time in a pool room to the extent that his family is suffering in consequence, the magistrate will be the one to decide what the penalty shall be. It is left entirely to his discretion.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Mr. Chairman, there is one phase of the application of this section to which I would direct the attention of the committee. In my province in the vicinity of the Blackfeet reservation the farmers are accustomed to hiring young Indians in the fall for harvest work and threshing. During the threshing if rain or snow interrupts operations the whole crew goes to town. There the men have only two