

Indians were enfranchised during the last two years under this section; they were enfranchised under section 114, not under 110.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Is there a waiting list for the coming year?

Mr. MURPHY: There is not, under this section; there have been some applications made under section 114.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have in my constituency the first colony composed entirely of graduates of the various Indian schools throughout the west. This colony has made great advancement in agricultural pursuits during the past thirty years. The main grievance I have from the members of this colony, especially on behalf of the sons of returned men, is that they have not been able to be enfranchised fast enough. An hon. member referred to that and a real question arises there. The sons of men who fought in the war and whose fathers are enfranchised by reason of their war service, are now in a number of cases of age and yet cannot vote. That is something I should like to see dealt with more satisfactorily than under this blanket clause whereby the minister and his officers can, in a wholesale way, take young Indians and old, and, just before an election, manufacture a lot of votes.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Very dangerous.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I am astonished at my hon. friends.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This would be the restoration of methods that prevailed many years ago, but in Saskatchewan we find the chief Conservative organizer, not on the relief commission, but administering the act as manager. If hon. members want to know his name, it is C. B. Daniels and a capable officer, but before he got the position he was chief Tory organizer in southern Saskatchewan. So we are just a little afraid that Saskatchewan methods may meander down here and be invoked by this government. I would ask the minister not to put himself into that position, because I do not believe he wants to be put in it. That is exactly what may happen, however.

Another point is that these Indians who have been dispossessed of their property, by force if you like, but more humanely in Canada than in any other country, are going to be weaned at a time the most difficult I can remember to be put on their own. I have been telling these young men who are anxious

to be enfranchised, that they are better off to-day than the white man. They have their schools near by, hospitals, medical services and an advisory foreman over them. They have every possible aid of which one can conceive. Now at this time when nobody can make a living on the farm, or at least nobody can pay his debts or replace his machinery, the government, under the guise of enfranchising these Indians, is going to shove them on their own wholesale. There must be some compelling force behind this enfranchisement conception under those inhuman conditions to which I have referred. I cannot conceive of any of them wanting the franchise on such terms as having to pay taxes and so on like the white man and hustling around under conditions that are very difficult, even though they do not start with any debts. I would ask my hon. friend not to have such terms embodied in this section. Let us give the young men as well as the old the right of initiative in making their own reforms. No individual can become a member of a band without the consent of its council. If an Indian from some other reserve wants to become a member of a band, he has to obtain the consent of the majority in it. When my hon. friend is looking into this matter, let him consider also the situation of the wives of these returned men. Nobody knows whether they have votes or not. In some places they vote; in others they do not. What about the wives of any of the Indians who are going to be enfranchised? Why should the franchise be confined to the males only? The Indian women are frequently better workers than the males.

Mr. CASGRAIN: They support the men.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Of course. As the saying goes: The woman is the better man of the two. They certainly deserve as much recognition as do the males in regard to enfranchisement, and they are quite as capable of exercising it intelligently. I think the minister should leave the section as it is, that is, preserve the right of voluntary enfranchisement.

Mr. EULER: In the constituency which I represent there are no Indians, either treaty or otherwise, and I rise to say a few words only on behalf of what I regard as a very definite principle. The term "treaty Indians" has been used. That implies, to me at least, although I have no extensive knowledge of this particular subject, that some sort of contract has been made with those Indians. If such a contract has been made, surely it is