

Indian Act

something for the department of Indian affairs it would be a great help.

Of course, I realize that here in Ottawa some of the department heads may not agree with their personnel doing Indian affairs work, but I think they could stand it. I do not think there is anything wrong in it. There are a few other things they could do.

I want to tell a story about a fellow named Slim Semmler up north of Aklavik. A few years ago big Slim decided he was going to ranch mink. He brought in 20 ranch mink and said to the department of northern affairs who, of course, were the bureaucrats in the country, "Now, this is what I propose to do. In the area surrounding me there are native Eskimos", and I am using the word "Eskimos" as an example, but the same can be said of Indians. "If these people were taught how to ranch mink I am sure it would be profitable to them, much more profitable than trapping muskrats."

At the white whale station we have whales. Whale meat can be used to feed the mink and whale oil and muskrats from the trap lines can be used in the spring to strengthen the animals". Well, he received a nice letter from Ottawa. They said, "Well, it sounds like a wonderful idea but we do not think it will work". That is the answer you get every time. Oh, no, they do not think it will work. So, he decided he was going ahead anyway. He purchased two freezers from Norman Wells and shipped them all the way in. He intended to take the whales, crush the bones and all the rest of it and sell to the natives for mink feed and for dog feed. There are 30 tons to 40 tons of dog feed shipped in from Edmonton every year. This fellow was going to make dog feed right there and mink feed and sell it. What did the department of northern affairs say? They said, "Oh, no, you cannot make a profit off the Eskimos". They sent the R.C.M.P. in who said, "Take these freezers out of here". Out went the freezers.

Mr. Stewart (Winnipeg North): Why?

Mr. Hardie: That is the sort of co-operation that people get when they make suggestions as to what could be done. They do not say it is going to benefit anybody; they say, "Let us try it". But this department is not willing to try any of these ideas. Although I have heard that the department of northern affairs is working on eiderdown up in the eastern Arctic some place.

What about sawmills? I have read reports and I have heard members speaking in this house. I have read speeches made in 1951 or 1952. People have been speaking about sawmills on different Indian reservations. We

[Mr. Hardie.]

have not one sawmill in the country. Aklavik is being moved. There is need for millions and millions of feet of lumber. There is going to be need for more lumber than we ever knew of or considered before, but there is not one sawmill in the Northwest Territories owned by the Indians. I sincerely ask the minister to do something about this. Let us spend a few dollars on some equipment, whether it is a sawmill, a whaling industry, a mink ranch, or whatever it is. Let us spend some money and organize these people. Let us do it as on the reserves on a co-operative basis. Let us do something to provide them with work, with a means to make some money to supplement what they receive out of trapping, \$450 a year.

There were a lot of things I wanted to say when I rose to my feet. Take the case of natives who are handicapped with deformities. Take the case of a man who cannot get out on a trap line because he is walking around on two crutches. Why can we not do something about that? Why can we not hire these people and use them as interpreters? There is a fellow at Fort Resolution whose name is Louis Tinqu. In my judgment Louis Tinqu is the best Indian interpreter of the Slave, the Dog Ribs or any one of these bands. Louis Tinqu is running around on a pair of crutches. They have supplied him with a canoe, but what good is a canoe if he cannot go through the bush on his crutches? I think people like that should be given some sort of a job with the department. They want to earn their way. They do not want to go to the Indian agent every couple of weeks and ask for the destitute ration. They are not interested in that. They want to earn a living. If we can give them the opportunity to earn a living we will not have to worry about the native Indian being integrated into our so-called civilization.

An hon. Member: "So-called" is good.

Mr. Hardie: It is so-called.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hardie: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for the Yukon and the hon. member for Nanaimo mentioned they were in favour of giving the Indian liquor. Well, I think possibly they should have liquor, but they need a lot more than liquor and the most important thing of all, as I have pointed out a hundred times already, is to provide them with the means of earning a living.

The Tories who run against me in every election in which I have been involved have rushed around the country promising the Indian liquor in return for his vote. "Get his vote and give him the liquor permit,