

with the provisions of the Indian Act. It will require parliament to make an amendment or change the Act before the system can be changed. I should think that this committee could, from the evidence they secure over the period that they are in session, determine whether there is any practical reason why the church should still continue to function as it does in Indian education. It is a difficult question to ask me to say whether or not the church should be eliminated. I feel myself that the church has a big place in the training of Indian children.

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. Has what?—A. Has a large place in the training of Indian children. Perhaps gradually it will be found that they can be trained in white schools. We are encouraging that system at the present time. We never stand in the way of Indian children attending a non-sectarian school, but I might make this observation in passing that so long as the church has control it should be required to provide properly qualified teachers, and if the church is not in a position to do so then the responsibility in that respect should devolve on the department. The department should take over. I think one of the weaknesses of the whole setup is the lack of properly qualified teachers.

Mr. MACNICOL: That is what I found.

Mr. CASE: That is not my point. I think there is a certain amount of dual administration. I take it you are not prepared to make any recommendation?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that not a legislative matter?

Mr. CASE: This committee would like to have recommendations.

The CHAIRMAN: But we have not arrived at the stage of drafting our report as yet.

Mr. CASE: No, but I am asking the question because here is the commissioner who is more familiar with it than any member of the committee. After his years of experience I think he should be able to recommend to the committee what is best for the Indian children.

The WITNESS: I will say this in answer to Mr. Case, that I am satisfied in my own heart and mind that the residential school has reached its peak in Indian education, and that it will be replaced gradually by the Indian day school. Whether that will mean the elimination entirely of the position of the church is I think, a matter that will be the responsibility of the legislators to decide.

Mr. CASE: It is pretty hard for them to decide without recommendations from some authority who is qualified to advise them.

*By Mr. Gibson:*

Q. Does the church not contribute quite substantially to the education of the Indians and is it not of great assistance to the Indian department financially as well as morally?—A. The director is here and he is in a position to say just what contribution the church makes in the matter of finance to the operation of Indian residential schools. He has detailed information on that. I have not.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think it is unfair to expect Major MacKay to make any answer on that subject.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. I should like to ask Major MacKay if there are many Indian children attending white schools in British Columbia?—A. Yes, there are 201 and 24 attending high school.