

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

particular, he asked about nurses. These figures which I shall give are not entirely relevant to scholarships but refer to professional and vocational assistance. In nurses' training, there are 25 young women now receiving assistance for tuition and there are 22 serving as nurses' aides. I gave the figures and the amounts involved yesterday with reference to the scholarships which were earned in the various classifications. The hon. member asked about scholarships with respect to northern Ontario. In the year 1959-60 there were two and in the year 1960-61 there was one. I cannot say for sure whether any of these pupils came from Thunder Bay district, but I do not think so.

The hon. member for Wetaskiwin made several suggestions which we will certainly look into particularly with regard to technical training. When the hon. member referred to welfare workers I presumed that he meant trained social workers. No doubt the hon. member knows this is quite a problem. Even if we made provision in the estimates for social welfare workers right across Canada we could not secure them because there is a great shortage of these workers in Canada. What we are trying to do now is make arrangements with the provincial authorities to co-operate with them and to take advantage of their social workers to work in the various Indian localities.

We think that will probably be more successful than trying to place a worker, let us say, on every reserve, or every group of reserves. I am sure that will work out but it is a long range project and as I said it depends to a large extent on the number of workers that even the provinces can provide because of the shortage in this profession.

Mr. Speakman: If the minister would not mind my interrupting her at this stage, that is just the point I made. The provincial welfare workers devote themselves rather exclusively to the non-Indians to the detriment of the Indian requirement.

Mrs. Fairclough: I see. That may be because we had not made a contract with them. We intend to explore this right across the country.

The hon. member asked about the revolving funds. I might tell him that these are available for individual enterprise in practically every field.

The hon. member for Kootenay East raised a question which I must say was new to us. The hon. member referred to the question of the Christmas tree contract at Columbia lake. We will certainly look into it. These contracts are not made without the sanction of the band council and without a proper resolution being passed by the band council.

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

I have not heard of one being made where the chief's signature was sufficient without some supporting evidence of the desire of the band to participate but we will certainly look into the complaint which the hon. member registered on their behalf and find out precisely what are the circumstances.

The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River brought up several problems.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could explain that the hon. member was called out of the chamber and he hopes to be back shortly.

Mrs. Fairclough: In any event I will make these explanations and the hon. member will have a record of them. With reference to Sioux Lookout there is an appropriation being asked for in the current estimates to provide a new gymnasium for the school there.

The hon. member asked about the utilization of the revolving loan fund. I can tell him that from April 1 to November 30, 1960 there were 97 loans approved of which 65 were for agriculture, 14 for fishing, 5 were miscellaneous, 2 were for timber and 11 for vehicles. The hon. member mentioned a total authorized amount of \$500,000, but it is actually \$1 million. Although the approved loans have totalled over \$500,000—some \$547,800—there are at the present time outstanding loans numbering 578 in the amount of \$498,790.

I can reassure the hon. member on the matter of the sale of wild rice and the supervision exercised by the department over the concession of picking rice and the assistance given in connection with harvesting. The department arranges for the marketing of the production by tender and makes sure that a fair market price is obtained by the Indians for their crop.

The hon. member also asked me a question with reference to the education of Indian children and those for whom no education is now provided. We find that in January, 1959 the agency returns showed that 1,735 Indian children between the ages of seven and 16 were not provided with education. However, in the following year, 1960, the number had decreased to 1,503. In other words, it had decreased by about 13.4 per cent.

Mr. Pickersgill: Are those the children who are either on reserves or with the bands, or does that figure include Indian children living in places such as Red Lake?

Mrs. Fairclough: That would include children of families which are nomadic and, probably, children in some small communities where no educational facilities are available. It is unfortunate, but the majority of these