

Mr. HOEY: That is all we get.

Mr. MACNICOL: Oh, that is all the civil servants get, the teacher gets six weeks or two months.

Mr. HOEY: Two months. But here is what I am up against. You people say to me couldn't your educational courses be made more practical. Well, here is an ambitious girl off the reserve, she starts a garden and just as the garden starts to grow she goes away for her holidays. I would like to get a schoolmaster and his wife to place in charge of our Indian schools, and I would classify them under the Civil Service Act as welfare training officers. Thereby they would become eligible for superannuation, and they should be eligible for superannuation. I do not know of any province in the dominion where teachers do not get superannuation; but our teachers are classified as temporary employees so that we cannot get them into the service and therefore they are not eligible for superannuation benefits.

Mr. MACNICOL: And now, Mr. Chairman, there is a very vital point that should be emphasized in your report.

Mr. HOEY: And I want to say to this committee that I do not want to be considered an alarmist but if that policy continues you are going to get the dregs of the teaching profession only for Indian reserves. There is no escape from that.

Mr. MACNICOL: Should you not recommend to your minister that something of that kind should be brought to the attention of the House?

Mr. HOEY: Again I fall back on the times in which we are living. I am not at all sure that this is just the moment, but it is something that should be given consideration. I do not think, for example, that it would make any material difference if the minister were to make that announcement to-morrow, because you cannot get qualified teachers anywhere, but I do think it would have a very important bearing on the question later on.

Mrs. NIELSEN: I think we should lay the foundation for that now at least.

Mr. MACNICOL: Have you in mind Fort a la Corne, the school there—that is seventy-five miles west of Nipawin. I have been there and I have met the Indian girl teacher at that school. She looked to me to be a very bright type of woman. It was a double school, as I remember it, and her husband was there and was he the teacher in one of the rooms and she the teacher in the other?

Mr. HOEY: Yes.

Mr. MACNICOL: I was greatly pleased to find an Indian school in control of Indian teachers.

Mr. HOEY: We made an analysis a few years ago and we discovered that the average stay of a teacher at an Indian day school is three years. Anybody who knows anything at all about education knows that continuity of teaching service is a very important factor.

Mr. MACNICOL: What is the record with respect to the ordinary country schools, a part such as Mr. Rickard comes from—although, he lives on Highway No. 2 so possibly he would not like to be classified as being in a rural school district—let us take a school in an area back somewhere from where he is, two or three miles; I suppose the average teacher stays there maybe two or three years, and that might be a long time.

Mr. RICKARD: We have had them stay there for as much as fifteen years.

Mr. MACNICOL: You might have the odd one who would stay that long, but that is not the average.

Mrs. NIELSEN: That would be your idea, to combine welfare and training, would it?