

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

APRIL 18, 1951.

The Special Committee appointed to consider the Indian Act met this day at 4.00 p.m. The Chairman, Mr. D. F. Brown, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Will you come to order, gentlemen? There will be no meeting tomorrow. There will be a meeting on Friday afternoon, if that is agreeable.

Mr. HARKNESS: Why not Friday morning?

The CHAIRMAN: The reason, I understand, is that the minister has a cabinet appointment.

Mr. HARKNESS: Why do we have these meetings in the afternoons rather than in the morning? I thought when we passed this motion asking for leave to sit while the House was sitting that it was generally understood that we would meet in the mornings unless Mr. Harris had to attend a council meeting; that that privilege was obtained so it would be available at a later date in order to get our work completed, but the way it looks now it would appear that we are going to run into more afternoon meetings than morning meetings. Personally, I do not see that that is necessary at this time.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Under normal circumstances we only have a long cabinet meeting once a week, on Wednesday, but occasionally it becomes necessary for us to have one on Friday morning. That is why the meeting is called this afternoon at 4 o'clock and for Friday at 4 o'clock. With the exception of these days I am always available in the mornings.

Mr. HARKNESS: I certainly think we should have our meeting Friday morning rather than Friday afternoon. What about tomorrow morning?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: I will be in Toronto tomorrow morning.

Mr. HARKNESS: I do not think we should sit in the afternoons any more than we absolutely have to.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed then that we shall meet Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock?

Agreed.

Mr. BRYCE: I hope we will meet mornings as much as possible, because it is more convenient for most of us to attend in the morning.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: The only occasion on which meetings in the afternoon would be necessary, so far as I am concerned, is on days when we have a long cabinet session.

Mr. HARKNESS: This afternoon is an example. There are some rather interesting things going on in the House.

The CHAIRMAN: Well then, gentlemen, if it is agreeable we will meet on Friday afternoon and on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Is that agreed?

Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: We had reached section 20, possession of lands in reserves.

20. (1) No Indian is lawfully in possession of land in a reserve unless, with the approval of the Minister, possession of the land has been allotted to him by the council of the band.