

not only of administering but of governing the north. Perhaps this is the chief reason these encroachments were allowed to creep up and erode the style of government. Would that be an accurate way of putting it?

Judge SISSONS: I think that is sound.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I have one or two questions to ask Mr. Justice Sissons. It does not seem to be clear that this legislative assembly ever did function or was elected. Did they actually hold elections during this period from roughly 1870 or 1875 until 1900? Did they actually hold elections up there and elect a legislative assembly?

Judge SISSONS: Are you referring to the northwest?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I am referring to the Northwest Territories in general.

Judge SISSONS: You are referring to the old Northwest Territories?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Yes.

Judge SISSONS: They certainly had a legislative assembly and held elections there.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: I have been impressed well enough to believe that there was a lieutenant governor carrying out his duties, appointing his legislative council or executive council, which was similar to that which exists in the province of Quebec today, is that right?

Judge SISSONS: Yes. There was a legislative assembly in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan, and quite a number of the members were elected. A number of these old politicians were still members of the old legislative assembly when I first went west in 1912.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Since 1905 the central government has taken what we can now call a retrograde step in depriving these citizens of that territory of those services?

Judge SISSONS: You are referring to what is now the Northwest Territories?

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Yes.

Judge SISSONS: There is no question about that.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: Would you say that we are just running a non-resident benevolent trap line up there?

Judge SISSONS: I do not like to use a phrase like that. In fact, I am a little accustomed to using such hot phrases myself and I think that I better refrain from doing so here.

Mr. ALKENBRACK: A non-resident benevolent trap line is not a hot phrase. In your view, what is the opinion of a cross section of the citizens up there in respect of the change of the name of the territories?

Judge SISSONS: I do not think anyone likes the suggested change from the old "Northwest Territories". This name is historical and traditional, and people have a lot of feeling for the old Northwest Territories.

Perhaps I should say a word or two about the Eskimos up there. The population is roughly of the proportion of seven Eskimos to five white men to four Indians, or something of that order. We have a lot to do with those Eskimos and Indians through the administration of justice. We have of course a jury system and when we go out to a trial, if the accused is an Eskimo or an Indian we always try to have Indians and Eskimos on the jury. They do serve on juries and they serve very well. Just last September I had a trial at Fort McPherson concerning an alleged attempted rape by an Indian boy. On that jury were three Indians, two white men and one Eskimo. When the jury reported back they had chosen one of the Indians as their foreman. They gave a sound verdict.