

Mr. MACNICOL: I think that Miss Moodie's opinion would be only her own personal opinion. You are not speaking for the department or the government, Miss Moodie?

The WITNESS: There is one thing I would like to say, and it is that Indians can compete with anybody at that sort of thing. (Indicating woven scarfs and ties).

Mrs. NIELSEN: I hope very much that the present witness will not take exception to what I am going to say, because I have the feeling that her ideas are very much in line with my own. To-day I had the idea that we were coming here to discuss problems of the Indian people and their relation with the rest of Canadians. Now, in dealing with handicraft first I think we are putting the cart before the horse. We should have a discussion first on the whole fundamental question as to whether or not our whole policy with regard to Indians is a correct one, or not. It is a policy which was started many years ago. Should it not be completely revised?

The CHAIRMAN: Miss Moodie is not responsible for that. After last week's meeting, the officials of the department and I discussed this, and we thought we should have Miss Moodie come here because of the very good interest shown in the art work and handicraft generally. I was hoping that Miss Moodie might finish her part of the discussion by 12 o'clock noon so that we could then proceed to the other matters; so, I will now ask if there are any further questions. Bear in mind that I would like to finish this part by 12 o'clock if we could.

*By Mr. Castleden:*

Q. Do you find that the group, like these six young Indians you have mentioned, are good metal workers?—A. There is a traditional "something". When their ancestors have done a certain type of work there seems to be an aptitude for that work.

Q. You said that there are Indians there who are earning \$200 a week in the aluminum plant. I found an Indian last year in Quebec who was recommended to me as being the best steel worker, the best structural steel riveter in the city.—A. Was he from Caughnawaga?

Mr. RICKARD: Was his name Joe Berry?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Oh, you have got me all mixed up now. We have Indians who are good doctors and good nurses and who excel themselves and who show that they can compete in modern fields of endeavour everywhere, almost in spite of the opportunities or conditions under which they have been living. Do you not think that it is time that the educational side of our Indian Affairs Department should take up this matter and discover for those Indians what their capacities are and give them opportunities to train along these lines so that they may go out into the world and make their contribution in that way, and also make their own means of livelihood?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hoey should be able to answer that.

The WITNESS: I think it is important to get these people at the age of sixteen and to have some provision made for them, either to place them in employment or to apprentice them, or to find out what they are best fitted to do, because the time from sixteen to eighteen years of age is a bad one. We were doing that sort of work at Caughnawaga before the war, and then following the outbreak of war our plans were upset.

*By Mr. Castleden:*

Q. You say that the economic problems should first be solved and then you may come along with your hobbies?—A. I feel that this ordinary craft-work is not a hobby. I feel that ordinary merchantable goods, such as the trade is simply crying for—they want ties, scarves and hand-made gloves.