

Q. Much more exaggerated?—A. Yes.

By Hon. Mr. Stevens:

Q. How long have you been in charge of the Department?—A. Close on to seventeen years.

By Mr. Hay:

Q. What would be, in their mind, the commercial value of the ownership?—A. Well, of course, they know that the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains are treated differently to the Indians in British Columbia.

By Dr. Scott:

Q. You do not mean that they are treated differently; you mean they were treated differently with respect to the treaty?—A. Yes, that is it. So far as any benefits are concerned, the Indians of British Columbia are getting just the same as the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains.

Q. With the exception of annuities?—A. They are not getting annuities, or what is called "treaty moneys."

By Mr. Hay:

Q. Are they thrifty, or is the money usually spent?—A. As a rule they spend it before they get it.

Dr. Scorr: There is great thrift among the tribes. A man with five in a family gets \$25 a year. He usually spends it immediately to buy something for his family, or he has debts at the store and goes and pays them. Sometimes it is hypothecated, but it is of no practical benefit financially. The annuities were a means of compensating for the individual rights; that was the only way in which they could be compensated, by a money payment.

By Mr. Kelly:

Q. I think I heard you say that the Indians did not appreciate all the educational advantages put at their disposal?—A. Yes.

Q. Are you aware that there are long waiting lists at the schools?—A. I know that, but, I think, Mr. Kelly, if you will make a visit to our schools you will find that we cannot keep a boy or girl at the school after they are fifteen years of age.

Q. You are referring to what grade of school?—A. I mean the residential school, where it is possible for the children to get a splendid education. Their parents do not desire to keep them in long enough in order that they may complete that education.

Q. Is it not a fact, though, that for instance in the Chilliwack, we have a long waiting list?—A. Yes, I am aware of that.

Q. And the same thing applies at Port Alberni on Vancouver Island?—A. Yes.

Q. And the school at Ahousat on the west coast is filled?—A. Our schools are all filled, but unfortunately they do not stay long enough to get their education completed.

Q. But there is a regulation that every Indian boy and girl stays there until their eighteenth birthday?—A. The law says we can only compel them to go to school until they are fifteen.

Q. But the Indian regulations demand their attendance up to eighteen years; is that not a fact?—A. Yes.

Q. And it has been lived up to almost to the letter of the law, all the way through?—A. No, it has not; not since the law was changed.

[Mr. W. E. Ditchburn.]