

He himself visited each Indian village in the Agency from twice to six times in each year, with the exception of the one at Smith's Inlet, which he visited once each year. Some of the reserves received visits oftener than twice or even six times in every year. There was no place of Indian habitation within the Agency that he had not visited since he had been Agent.

To Mr COMMISSIONER M'KENNA: The 60 % decrease in population of which he had spoken was attributable to natural decrease and not to census errors, being indicated by the preponderance of the death rate over the birth rate. Improved and less costly medical attendance of which the Indians would more freely avail themselves would tend toward materially lessening this decrease. The decrease spoken of he regarded as largely due to the medical system at present prevailing and also to insanitary conditions at the villages, together with the herding of the Indians together at their potpach gatherings. In determining the medical system best adapted to the necessities of the case, the financial consideration should be a secondary consideration in opposition to the public interest in the health of the Indians and their part in the general population.

To Mr COMMISSIONER SHAW: He had found great difficulty at times in the administration of the business of his Agency in consequence of its distance from Ottawa, the seat of administration. In his opinion, a branch of the Indian Department with full executive powers, if established in this Province, would be of material benefit to the Indians and to the administration generally, always provided that whoever was in charge should not have to refer the business to Ottawa for action. If the officer appointed were a mere transmitting official such an office would be a detriment rather than a benefit as the time lost through the additional red-tape would make matters worse than as at present.

Passing next to the applications put in by the Indians of the Kwakwath for additional lands, Agent Halliday said that, with regard to the requests of the Koskamos, the first was for the place known as Tsa-tsa; the land asked for he believed to be

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