

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Applewhaite, I think brought it out very clearly: in his district there are remote areas where you would not expect valuers to come from Vancouver to give an opinion as to the value of a piece of land.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: Even the distance from the closest white village might be 120 miles, and there is no contact except through a missionary or an Indian agent.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It seems to me that all things being considered the minister's position is the right one.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 18 (2)?

Carried.

Clause 19:

19. The Minister may

- (a) authorize surveys of reserves and the preparation of plans and reports with respect thereto,
- (b) divide the whole or any portion of a reserve into lots or other subdivisions, and
- (c) determine the location and direct the construction of roads in a reserve.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: There is an objection to clause 19. It is set forth in paragraph 19 on the conference proceedings and it reads:

Section 19, dealing with surveys of sub-divisions of reserves, was considered to be very beneficial by some representatives because they felt that it was only through these surveys that an individual owner could definitely establish his claims to land on a reserve. Suggestions were made that in some areas these surveys should be expedited.

However, two other representatives were opposed to this section on the basis that it might lead to allotment. It was indicated that there was no objection to the external surveys of reserves but there was objection to surveys for sub-divisions. For instance, it was pointed out that the Indians in Southern Alberta were not opposed to surveys of reserves, but that the Indians of Central and Northern Alberta definitely were, and that because of this opposition no surveys should be made without the consent of a Band Council

The CHAIRMAN: Does that not mean that if the farms cannot be surveyed you cannot fence them off?

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: That is the point. In southern Alberta the Indians are gradually becoming used to and in fact requesting allotment of land and for that purpose they must have surveys and that is why they are favourable to surveys being made. When the idea is generally acceptable in northern Alberta as to allotment of land no doubt they too will be asking for surveys.

Mr. APPLEWHAITE: At whose expense are these surveys to be made?

Mr. MACKAY: Departmental appropriations.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I wonder if the minister would explain to us why (b) would be justified there? It looks a little bit severe—divide the whole or any portion of a reserve into lots or other subdivisions. I notice no stipulation is made to the effect that the Indians would have any voice in the matter. I wonder if that sort of wording is necessary.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: We are perhaps confusing what we do in surveying with what we do by allotment. We do not disturb the Indian in the possession of any land he is entitled to but when we survey the land we do mark on it lots and subdivisions of lots so as to determine from that his actual occupation, but someone reading that might get the idea that having completed the survey we would take his land and move him over to some other place because there was some vacant land there.