

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

is still law and if any other reserve lands belonging to British Columbia Indians can be auctioned, in respect of which they will receive 50 per cent return through the federal government but will lose 50 per cent through the provincial government.

I raise this matter because it is important, and I realize that the minister may not have had time in her brief term in office to study the problem. I believe the hon. lady will appreciate why I think it should be the subject of a judicial inquiry, and I hope she will offer some comment on the situation.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should deal first with the questions which were asked last evening by the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate, when he inquired as to the estimated expenditures for Indians on a per capita basis.

Based on the present population figure of 185,295 and the total estimated expenditure for 1961-62 of \$49,421,488 for the Indian affairs branch, the per capita expenditure would be \$266.72. In order to achieve a more realistic figure, additional expenditures on Indians by the Indian and northern health services of the Department of National Health and Welfare and also expenditures on Indian education in the Northwest Territories by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources would have to be included.

I am informed that it is proposed to spend \$19,500,000 on Indian health in 1961-62. This would involve an additional \$105.24 per capita expenditure. I understand that the education of Indian pupils in the Northwest Territories will involve an expenditure of \$2,285,127. On a nation-wide per capita break-down this amounts to \$12.33. Therefore the total proposed per capita expenditure for 1961-62 would amount to \$384.29. I remind hon. members that this figure does not include old age assistance, family allowances and other such social benefits of general application available to citizens of Indian status on the same basis as others.

The hon. member also asked for a report on some of the areas of regular employment in which Indians are moving, particularly in frontier areas. In British Columbia substantial numbers of Indians are employed in the logging and pulpwood industries. The department has established liaison with several companies which are planning new pulpwood and power projects, and expects these to provide additional job opportunities.

There were 128 Indians placed this year on clearing work for the microwave system along the Alaska highway. At Masset, British Columbia, 80 Indians are employed for nine or 10 months of each year in the local cannery. In the Yukon, clearing operations in connection with road construction included one

project at Watson Lake last winter which employed 100 Indians, and there is a similar project at that location this winter. In the Northwest Territories, at Yellowknife, a similar clearing project is currently employing approximately 100 Indians. Indians are also employed as school janitors and in other capacities by government departments. In Alberta over 160 Indians have been employed in clearing the right of way for a north-south pipe line, and this work is continuing.

These examples concern construction work largely. In Manitoba there have been similar projects at Cormorant lake and at Thompson. Currently over 100 Indians are employed at the Grand Rapids power development. These programs give them experience in wage employment which prepares them for other job opportunities as they occur. At Island Lake, Manitoba, a fish filleting plant provides wage employment for over 50 Indians for three to four months each summer. Many Manitoba Indians are employed by the railways as section hands and section foremen, and this also applies in northern Ontario.

Mining operations in northern Ontario provide employment to a considerable number of Indians in the Red Lake district. At Pickle Crow, Ontario, there are some 50 Indians employed as miners and on surface work. At Sudbury 25 were placed last year. Highway construction for a new iron ore development in Nakina agency employs 30 Indians. A sulphuric acid plant established on the Serpent river reserve No. 7 in the district of Algoma has employed approximately 20 Indians. At Schefferville, Quebec, although the work force was substantially reduced last fall, 35 Indians were retained on the payroll out of approximately 125 employed. Many of the others are employed periodically on a day basis.

The foregoing presents a few examples of instances where groups of Indians are being employed on construction projects, particularly in the north. Smaller groups are making the adjustment to industrial employment. This is not a complete list, nor does it include mention of those individuals who have moved into steady employment under the permanent placement program.

This morning the hon. member for Skeena asked some questions and made some comments to which I should like to reply. He asked me whether I could give him the number of persons receiving welfare payments in each of the five categories, as set out in the statement made a year ago. We do not have these figures; I presume it would be possible to procure them, but I am told by my officials that it would entail two months work to do so. I doubt very much whether the answer would be sufficiently valuable to

[Mr. Winch.]