

administrative improvements which could be effected without the revision of existing legislation and which, when put into effect, would remove some of the causes out of which arise grievances and complaints of many Indians.

There are still some "administrative improvements" which your Committee deems advisable.

Your Committee, therefore, again recommends that the administration of all aspects of Indian affairs be placed under one ministerial head.

Your Committee reiterates the recommendation made by the 1947 Joint Committee on the Indian Act, viz:

10. The Director of the Indian Affairs Branch . . . should be named a Commissioner who shall have the rank of a Deputy Minister and shall have at least two Assistant Commissioners of whom one should be a Canadian of Indian descent.

10. PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Since 1867 there have been only two parliamentary inquiries into Indian affairs, each of which was very narrow in scope. One, in 1930, dealt with Bill No. 14, which contained amendments with regard to the adoption of the elective system of Chiefs and Councillors; the other, in 1926, was a Joint Committee which inquired into the claims of the allied Indian tribes of British Columbia.

Your Committee recommends that the rules of the House of Commons be amended to provide for the appointment of a Select Standing Committee on Indian Affairs.

In the opinion of your Committee such a Committee will be necessary for a few sessions at least, to consider and report upon the working out of any Indian Act and regulations framed thereunder.

Your Committee considers a lapse of more than 20 years without parliamentary investigation too long to permit of that good administration of a Branch or Department of Government which deals with such human problems as Indian Affairs.

11. ADVISORY BOARDS

Your Committee recommends that the Government consider the advisability of appointing such Advisory Boards or Committees as, from time to time, are deemed necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of the Indian Act.

12. OTHER COGNATE MATTERS

There are certain aspects of Indian affairs administration which, perforce, require co-operation between Dominion and Provincial officials, to bring about the future economic assimilation of Indians into the body politic of Canada.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of the next Dominion-Provincial Conference, for consideration by the Provinces, the following matters:—

- (a) Education;
- (b) Health and Social Services;
- (c) Fur Conservation and Development and Indian traplines;
- (d) Provincial Fish and Game laws;
- (e) Provincial liquor legislation;
- (f) Validity of marriage solemnized by Indians, on Indian reserves, according to tribal custom and ritual.

Your Committee realizes that the matters above enumerated are matters which, normally, are dealt with under provincial legislative powers. However, it should be possible to arrive at such financial arrangements between the