

Mr. LOCKHART: I understand there have been increases in the estimates for Indian education this year, and I should like the minister to explain in what way the work has been extended. Last year I said that in my opinion the work was being neglected in some ways, but this year I see a considerable increase in both the main and supplementary estimates. In what way has this work been increased, and in what way are the Indians receiving a better education?

Mr. CRERAR: The increase is due entirely to the fact that, as I recall the figures at the moment, there are from 200 to 250 new Indian children coming in for education every year. The Indian population is increasing, and the school population is also increasing.

Mr. LOCKHART: To what extent is the school population increasing?

Mr. CRERAR: As I said a moment ago to the extent of about 250 pupils per year.

Mr. LOCKHART: That is a definite increase of 250?

Mr. CRERAR: I would not be certain that that was the precise number.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. LOCKHART: We should not make a burlesque out of this thing; it is information we want, and it does not help to have a few hon. members keep calling, "Carried." I want to know if there is any new phase of education for the Indians being taken up this year. I do not want to go into the details of what might be considered the neglect of their education; but have there been any new branches of education undertaken or any enlargement of the scope of their education throughout the country.

Mr. CRERAR: I think there is a general desire to make education more vocational in character. That does not involve any increase in the amount of money required. As I stated, however, when the main estimates were before the committee, and as I said a moment ago, there is an increase in the number of Indian pupils each year because of the natural increase in the Indian population; and of course, as the number of pupils increases, the amount of money for education has to be increased. That is the explanation for the increase.

Mr. LOCKHART: Then, am I to gather that the work is being carried on exactly as it was a year ago, with no changes in the curriculum and no new methods adopted for the education of the Indian children?

Mr. CRERAR: I did not say that.

Mr. LOCKHART: The minister said the increase in the amount of money required was due to the natural increase in the school population. I am asking if there has been any change in the system of education or if the work is being carried on just as it was last year, and if it is only the natural increase in school population that has brought about the increase in the amount of money required.

Mr. CRERAR: I have said already that the increase is due practically altogether to the increase in the number of pupils requiring school care and education. So far as the general problem of education is concerned, I stated before and I repeat now that study has been and is being given to the matter of making that education more vocational in character, so that it may be of more value to the Indian youngsters when they leave school and go out for themselves.

Mr. LOCKHART: That is the point I am trying to arrive at, and it seems to be taking some time. Is there any change in the vocational education being given to the Indian children? Goodness knows there is necessity for it. Is it only to be studied for another year, or has it actually been accomplished?

Item agreed to.

Immigration branch—to provide for investigation of illegal entry of aliens into British Columbia, \$15,000.

Mr. BARBER: Is this item to provide for the investigation going on in connection with orientals. If so, what has this commission cost to date?

Mr. CRERAR: I am unable to give that information.

Mr. BARBER: What is the per diem allowance, and how are these men being paid?

Mr. CRERAR: There is a per diem allowance to Doctor Keenleyside for living expenses. At this time I cannot recall what it is. The other members of the board of review are government officials resident in Vancouver.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Is the minister able to say anything about this Saanich business?

Mr. CRERAR: I am not in a position to give the hon. member the information he desires, but I shall look into the matter and advise him.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): I have been repeatedly asking about this one matter. Saanich municipality spent \$1,100 in putting out a fire on the dominion government's observatory hill. The reeve of the municipality