

Indian Act

things, certainly I should like to see them get the federal vote some day, and I am sure they will. I am glad to see that at least in this bill a considerable amount of money, more money than has been available heretofore, will be made available to Indians.

Everybody in Canada needs credit. We are all living on credit. I do not know what a great many members in this house, including myself, would do if we were not able to have credit facilities. In order for the Indian people to play their part they need credit facilities. I am delighted that at least this item is to be included in the bill. I am sure the other provisions will be matters which will enable Indians to play a more important part in the life of this country than they have ever played before. Whatever their rights are, I should like to see them have the same rights as other Canadians.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I have spoken of the contribution of the Indian people in wars, but I should like to see that contribution given in time of peace and it will be given under the enlightened legislation that is beginning to come forward. The present minister has shown a great understanding of the questions involving Indians, particularly in my part of the country, and, as a result of that, I am sure that from time to time we shall have more changes in the Indian Act which will enable the Indian people to continue to play the part which they have played and which I outlined at the beginning. I long for the day when we can sit together with our brothers, the Indian people, and discuss our mutual problems under their great tree of peace.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, there is a significant difference in the debate that takes place in this house regarding the Indian problem and many other debates. It is significant because probably all of the hon. members who have spoken on this problem are really trying to do something to help the Indians of this country. I have said that this is the greatest human problem that we have in Canada. That problem is intensified in some districts more than in others. In almost every area of Canada the problem is different.

I listened with interest to the hon. member for Brantford, who has just taken his seat. I am quite sure in my own mind that when he speaks on Indian affairs he does so from his heart. I spent a couple of days on the Six Nations reserve a few years ago and I had a very hearty welcome. I found that the Indians in that particular area were very much advanced over the Indians in my constituency. There are 10 Indian reserves in my constituency and I make it a point to visit them periodically. I think that before

anybody speaks in this house on Indian affairs he should spend a little time and acquaint himself with some of the problems before he rises in the House of Commons and opposes legislation brought in with the idea of helping the Indians.

I have said that the problems are different in different areas. This afternoon and tonight we heard from several members from different sections of the country where the problems are different. In my constituency I am interested in three things. I am interested in this legislation because it is going to give some help to the Indians to provide themselves with homes, with farm machinery and with necessities. At least, that is my hope. I would like to see something further done when loans are made. I am not one who wants to see money thrown down the ditch. When loans are made to Indians for farm machinery some provision should be made to give those Indians some understanding of how to take care of those machines. Machinery costs money today. It is a mistake to give an Indian or anybody else a \$3,000 or \$4,000 tractor if he does not know how to take care of it.

Last year I made two suggestions. My first suggestion was that something should be done along those lines to give our Indians an opportunity to learn how to take care of farm machinery, trucks, and so on. My second suggestion was that something should be done to teach them how to build houses. I sometimes think that if a man like John Fisher, that great Canadian, could travel through Canada for a couple of months visiting our Indian reserves, or some other newspapermen who were good story tellers, and tell the people of Canada just what the problem is on the Indian reserves, it would help build up public opinion so that we would not hear carping criticism of expenditures made for the purpose of helping our Indians. I would like to take the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre through my constituency and show him some of the houses or hovels in which our Indians live. A lot of people would not keep their dogs in there, and I am sure a lot of race horse men would not keep their race horses in the kind of buildings our Indians are living in. I think it is a disgrace. Every time I go to my reserves I come back feeling sad, and when I come down here I want to try to get the minister and the department to move more rapidly. The more I see of life on the reserves the more I realize that it is not an easy problem. He would be a wise man who would suggest for a minute that he could solve all the problems.

I offered last year to co-operate to the fullest extent with the minister in trying to