

Prior to that time such trained supervision was rarely available in more than twenty per cent of the cases.

As you know, honourable senators, the Solicitor General is responsible for studying the case of every convicted murderer whose appeals have failed in the courts, for the purpose of discussing with his colleagues in the cabinet the question whether the sentence of death should be commuted to one of life imprisonment. There were fourteen such cases in 1954, and four of them resulted in commutation, while ten resulted in no interference by the cabinet. A number of the cases tried in that year are still before courts of appeal and there has been no action as yet to bring them before the cabinet. In 1955, seventeen persons were sentenced to death in Canada for murder. The cases of twelve of them are still before courts of appeal. The remaining five were considered by the cabinet, with the result that in two cases the persons concerned were executed, and in the remaining three the sentences of death were commuted to life imprisonment.

In addition, of course, it is the responsibility of the Solicitor General to advise the Governor General when and under what circumstances persons should be released from imprisonment who, having been previously sentenced to death for murder, have had their sentences commuted to imprisonment for life. Where it is possible to release such a person from confinement, as a general rule the release takes place not earlier than ten years nor later than twenty years from the commencement of the imprisonment. Of course there are some cases in which the release of such prisoners is impossible. The minister's duties in this respect are very difficult, but they are done conscientiously.

With regard to the Department of Fisheries: the minister, a young, active and courageous man, did what very few people from the west have done: he went to Russia to examine into the methods of the fishing industry in that country, and he returned with a great deal of information which will be very useful to the fishermen of Canada. I will not mention all the legislation that he has sponsored as Minister of Fisheries, but the Fishermen's Indemnity Plan was very helpful, especially when the fishing industry suffered great losses by reason of a hurricane. He has sponsored legislation for loans to fishermen, something that was sought by my former colleagues from the Maritime provinces for a very long time, and it is now coming into operation.

Let us look at the Department of Transport, which has a very able minister in the Honourable Mr. Marler, who had some training in

the province of Quebec. No mention was made in the Speech from the Throne about developments under his department, but there has been the important undertaking of the deepening of the St. Lawrence Waterway, and the opening of the Canso Causeway, which has been a credit to the minister. There has also been the removal of railway crossings. I know from experience, and my colleagues must know too, that ten, twenty, thirty years ago a government would have referred to the opening of the Canso Causeway in the Speech from the Throne. I find this Government is very modest. It performs great accomplishments, yet it is left to the mover of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, in the Senate, to mention them.

Let us see what is taking place in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. In the last two and a half years the department has continued to play its important part in the lives of our oldest Canadians, the Indians, and our newest, the immigrants. The Indian population rose to 151,552 by the end of 1954 and an intensified effort was made to assist Indians in becoming happy, useful Canadians. Forty new Indian schools with a total of approximately 175 classrooms were opened between April 1, 1953, and March 30, 1955, and by the end of 1954, 32,525 Indians were attending educational institutions, most of them in the 574 schools operated by the department. Also during the period April 1, 1953, to March 30, 1955, 1,809 houses were built for Indians, and 4,367 houses repaired and renovated. The Indians have not been forgotten by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

During the years 1953-54-55 over 425,000 immigrants came to Canada and over 100,000 citizenship certificates were issued. In 1955 alone over 65,000 certificates were granted, an indication of the increased activity in this field. What has to be taken into consideration is the fact that it takes a few years before a certificate can be granted. An example of the work of the Citizenship Branch may be seen in the *Handbook for Newcomers* issued recently to assist immigrants in becoming familiar with Canadian ways. More than half a million of these booklets were printed in five languages.

The Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, the Honourable Jean Lesage, has said that there are two problems in his department, the human problem and the economic problem. Speaking to the Richelieu Club of Quebec early in January he said:

(Translation):

Among the main problems, one may mention the extremely high cost of education, the long