

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

situation in which an amendment to the Indian Act is necessary in order to prevent expulsion.

Mr. Hansell: That was my point, as a matter of fact.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. If the hon. member for Macleod will forgive me for interrupting, I should like to say this. When he started to speak I took a look at the main estimates, which contain a great deal more information than is to be found in the supplementaries. The supplementary item that we have before the committee is "Welfare of Indians—operation and maintenance". By looking at the details in the main estimates we find that this item deals with the chief of division, social workers, indigent Indians, juvenile delinquents and so on, or what I think commonly comes under the heading of welfare services.

I do not wish unduly to curtail the discussion in the committee, knowing as I do that this is a very important item to some individuals. But technically I think discussion of an amendment to the act as to the method of setting up or revising band lists could hardly come under the heading of welfare services. Having allowed some members to express their views I am not saying that, as of now, this discussion must stop. However, I think I am within my rights in asking the committee to make such discussion as brief as possible and then to come back to the welfare administration that we are supposed to be discussing.

Mr. Hansell: I do not want to extend the discussion, Mr. Chairman, and I certainly do not want to be out of order. I must confess that I did not look at the details. I saw "Welfare of Indians" and I thought I was speaking to their welfare. Having received these requests from reputable organizations who feel that the Indian Act should now be changed, I wanted to get on the record from the minister the statement that there is no need for a change in the Indian Act. I do not know that I agree with him. However, I wanted to have clearly from him a pronouncement that in his opinion there was no need for a change in the Indian Act to take care of any future situations which might arise similar to the one that caused all the disturbance in the past several months.

We may continue to get such letters. We want to know how to answer them. If the minister takes that responsibility I suppose we shall have to relay that information to the people who write us. As the hon. member for Calgary North has said, he does not agree with the minister; and when his bill comes up for consideration perhaps we shall be obliged to fight it out on this ground.

[Mr. Harkness.]

Mr. Leboe: I do not intend to make any extended remarks at this time. I should like to say that I think we owe a debt of gratitude to the *Province* newspaper for focusing attention on the condition of the Indians in the northern part of British Columbia. As the minister will recall, I have had conversations with him and with his department concerning the Indians in that area. I think some progress is being made in getting a little bit more leniency having regard to attention to Indians who are invalided or sick or in bad health.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the hon. gentleman does not want to be out of order. My department has nothing to do with looking after sick Indians. We look after the healthy ones only. The other matter is dealt with by the department of my colleague in whose seat I am temporarily sitting.

Mr. Leboe: Maybe I should have noticed that but I did not do so. I am like the hon. member for Macleod. The item says "Welfare of Indians—operation and maintenance". I was under the impression that this matter came under the minister's department. However, I will try to introduce it into the discussion when the other estimates are before the house.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): Mr. Chairman, I just want to say a couple of words, and this is on the welfare of Indians. In Peterborough riding we have two reserves. But on one reserve, namely the Curve lake reserve as it is commonly called—the real name is Mud lake reserve—there are no horses or tractors. The men must go into Peterborough or go outside the reserve in order to make any money in order to live. They return home to the reserve at night. For the welfare of the people on that reserve I think the Indian affairs branch should see to it that some of these properties on the reserve are plowed and cultivated for the Indians in order to give them gardens of their own. At the present time they are obliged to do such work by hand. I think perhaps a tractor in there would help a great deal.

I have mentioned this matter before, and I do so again because I think they ought to have something like that so they would be able to grow many of their own farm products. The trapping is gone in that district because there are summer cottages all through where the trapping used to be done. On top of that, Peterborough has extended out that way, and there is no game in that section. They must go far north in order to get it.

For the welfare of these people I think something along that line should be done.