

NEW DEAL FOR CANADA'S INDIANS

The following passages are excerpts from a statement to the House of Commons on December 14 by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Mr. Guy Favreau, in presenting the estimates of the of the Indian Affairs Branch of his Department:

...Last month, for the first time in Canadian history, the question of Indian affairs was discussed at a federal-provincial conference. I am glad to report a large measure of agreement. It was agreed that Indians should be associated more closely with the life of other Canadians and that Indians should have full equality of opportunities. It was recognized that the time has come to find the basis on which the widest possible range of federal, provincial and municipal services currently provided to non-Indians can be extended to Indians, and that the Indians must be consulted throughout. It was agreed that a further meeting should be held, if possible by May of 1964, at which provincial ministers and their senior officials would discuss with us this whole question in greater detail. Preparation and planning for this next meeting is now under way. I sincerely believe that through this new development we are entering a new phase and have reached a turning-point in the field of Indian affairs in Canada.

INDIAN-RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A sound body of knowledge is essential to the continuing development of effective programmes, and the Government, therefore, is sponsoring a Canada-wide Indian-research programme. In announcing this undertaking in the House on December 2 last, I mentioned that the study, conducted by social scientists from the universities, would cover four major areas concerning Indians—economic development, advancement in education, responsibilities that exist at various government levels, and band councils and the development of self-government. In addition to the main areas of research, a number of supplementary studies would be made on related subjects.

Basic to our efforts is the willingness of the Indian people to carry themselves forward. The great majority, I am certain, are determined to take advantage of every opportunity provided to them for advancement.

NEW EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Opportunity requires sound training, both academic and technical. The 1963-64 estimates for the Indian Affairs Branch reflect the emphasis on education in that 57.1 per cent of the amount requested is designated for education purposes, including an amount of \$25,294,810 for the administration, operation and maintenance of the school programme and \$5,792,000 for capital expenditures. There is an increase this year in the operation vote attributable to an overall increase in enrolment and an expected rise in education costs for Indian children attending non-Indian schools. The number of children enrolled in non-Indian schools now exceeds 18,500, or almost 40 per cent of the school population.

A scholarship programme for Indian students has been continued from previous years with encouraging results. In addition, other financial assistance,

including the payment of tuition fees, was given to 3,344 students to enable them to complete high school, university, and vocational-training courses.

Indian parents, too, are showing greater interest in education. There are now 40 Indian school committees which are, in effect, embryonic school boards, and which constitute a basic step toward Indian responsibility for the operation of schools on reserves.

Efforts toward the inclusion of Indians in welfare programmes of the provinces must be continued and intensified. It is recognized that there is also a need for the establishment of services designed to help those residing in Indian communities to provide for their own needs. The establishment of such services is now under active consideration.

TRAINING LEADERS

The opportunities for mature and competent Indian men and women prepared to give leadership in the reserve community and elsewhere are constantly broadening. Emphasis is being placed on training programmes to enable Indians to develop more fully their potential capacity for leadership roles. Utilization of training facilities and resources offered by various governmental and private organizations has made possible marked expansion in this field.

Economic development programmes are vital. In agriculture, provision is being made to continue and expand the practice of lending cattle on rotation to selected Indians. Agricultural conferences to stimulate interest and improve the methods used by Indian farmers have been successfully undertaken, and Indian farmers are being encouraged to avail themselves of the services offered by the federal and provincial departments of agriculture.

The number of selected Indians placed in permanent employment, with the co-operation of the National Employment Service, is growing year by year and has now reached a total of 1,617 including 477 in 1962-63. In addition, there were over 5,000 rural and seasonal placements made last year with assistance from the National Employment Service. This does not include the many Indians who obtained employment independently or with assistance from their local agency superintendent.

AID TO HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS

Extensive assistance is provided those Indians who still pursue their traditional vocations of hunting, trapping and fishing, and harvesting wild crops. A ten-year agreement with the Province of Ontario concerning renewable-resources development has completed its first year of operation and shows promise. Similar programmes are being carried on in other provinces by formal agreement, as in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, or under informal working arrangements. Notable in the latter case are joint surveys of the renewable-resources potential in British Columbia and Quebec.

The value of handicraft production as a supplementary source of income is recognized by inclusion in the estimates of an amount to provide for instruction and supervision, the furnishing of raw materials, and the purchases and sale of finished handicraft items.

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