

the Saskatchewan activities for a number of years. There the boys and girls were taken from the schools after having been educated and were placed upon the farms. One of the things I objected to was the fact that there was no provision in the estimates for advancing sums of money to support these young people. I think in most cases, although I will not say in all, success was due to the fact that these people started up as young married couples upon their own particular holdings; in one or two instances I discovered young men who were batching and doing remarkably well. Indeed, from my observation, these young people I found were making as great a success of farming as were their white brothers in the surrounding territory; and one could not expect more than that. But unfortunately this is not the case throughout the other provinces. The work has not been carried on in the same concentrated way. However, what I have described is evidence of what can be done with the aborigine in educating and training him so that you change his mode of life.

It cannot be denied that in northern Ontario, northern Manitoba, and indeed in the northern portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the white man is becoming a very strong competitor of the Indian in trapping and in hunting. We are receiving constant complaints from the Indians that they are being driven off their hunting grounds. It is generally conceded that the white man is a much more zealous hunter, covers a greater extent of territory, and takes more fur than the Indian, and is denuding the hunting grounds of the red man to such an extent that it is becoming a serious problem. Indeed, this is true even in the far north where the Eskimos find themselves in a similar plight. Therefore, unless we take definite action to change the mode of life of the plains Indian, and in some degree of the bush Indian, we are within a measurable distance of the time when we will be bound to vote large sums of money for the subsistence of the aboriginal tribes. It is with that thought in mind that I am prompted to ask for increased grants for educational purposes among the Indians.

I am not criticizing my predecessors in office; I need only refer to the remarks of the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) last year during the discussion of the Indian estimates, when he said that the preceding government had even gone to the point of being penurious in carrying on educational work among the Indians. I think it is only good business that we should attack this problem from the educational

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

standpoint and try, if possible, to give the younger generation among the Indians such a reasonable amount of education as will enable them to take their place along with their white brothers and sisters, and in some cases, going a little further, give them the necessary technical training to enable them to engage in pursuits other than agriculture. That is all I have in mind.

I have a great admiration for the services performed by the various church organizations among the Indians, especially in the way of education. When I visited the Indian school at Kamloops I found the Father and Sisters in charge working under the most discouraging conditions. Although the building was heated with stoves it was freezing cold, the windows being in a shaky condition and almost falling out, and the school being of wooden construction the fire hazard was very great indeed. Yet he and the Sisters were doing their best to educate the Indian children within a hundred-mile radius of the institution. We are asking you this year to vote a sum of money to build a new institution at Kamloops to serve that whole territory. Similar remarks might be applied to many of these schools. The churches have spent a good deal of money in the construction of school buildings, and many of them are in good shape. It will be remembered that last session we asked for a vote to take over one of the newer buildings in order to relieve the religious organization of the capital charges they had taken upon themselves in connection with this work. I do think, Mr. Chairman, that if the religious organizations are willing to help us to the extent of providing the teaching staff practically free of charge to us, it is our clear duty to provide the buildings for the carrying on of their work. It will be my desire to assist and extend those operations among the 120,000 odd Indians so that no Indian child shall be denied the right to a good, decent public school education at least.

There are many and varied difficulties in the administration of the Indian department. In answer to my hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) I am free to admit that in some cases not enough care has been exercised in selecting our local agents. A great deal depends upon the man who is placed upon a reserve and in whose charge the Indians must be. In many cases not nearly enough consideration has been given to the choice of a suitable man, because after all he needs to possess a good tempered, patient and sympathetic disposition, for he meets with a great deal of disappointment in his failure to at once