

Indian Act

the powder to blow it to Hades. I am telling you that if these people thought for one minute they could live on the relief that is handed out to them or if the people down here think that is what they think, then they have another thought coming. These people are interested in working and making a living if they are provided with the work. There is no work in that part of the country.

I hear the people in this part of the country talking about the Indian on the reservation. Those people are living in seventh heaven compared with the Indians in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The people here talk about the poor Indian on the reserve. The poor Indian on the reserve is what Rockefeller is compared to me in so far as the Indians in the Northwest Territory are concerned. The Indians on the reserves get equipment from the government for agriculture. They get trucks and all sorts of things. In the Northwest Territories, what do they get? There is no provision for work there. If you are destitute or starving we will hand you out 10 pounds of navy beans and a few other little things. Of course, there is no salt to put in the navy beans, and nothing else to put in them, but the department expects the Indian to eat these beans.

It is the responsibility of this government to provide work for the Indians in the Northwest Territories, something like what is being done on the Indian reservations in this country. A few minutes ago I read something about commercial fishing:

Several attempts were made to interest Indians in commercial fishing with varying degrees of success.

Do you know what the facts are? They take a native out and say, "Now, you are going to go fishing out on the lake through the ice." They move out a little two by four cabin, give him a few nets, and he starts fishing. Then, they leave him there. Mr. Chairman, the Indian has to have leadership. He has to have guidance. They leave him out on the lake to fish, and what happens? After the fellow has perhaps 300 or perhaps 400 pounds of fish out on the ice, a fish buyer comes along with a bottle of rye and \$5 and says, "Here is the bottle and I will take the fish." After a couple of days of this the Indian finds there is nothing to eat, so he says, to heck with this, I am going home. He takes off and goes home. What can you expect? What these people need is some guidance, some leadership. If the Indian affairs department is going to help these Indians to set up commercial fishing what it has to do is to hire a man in the country, or from the country, who knows something about Indians, and send him out with them and see that they get a square deal from the

fish buyer and that they fish their nets. These people need leadership. Naturally, they need leadership. They are uneducated, Mr. Chairman.

I agree with the hon. member for Yukon who has talked about Indian agents. Instead of the department hiring Indian agents with Ph.D.'s or something else, who would not know a rabbit track from a snowshoe track, let us hire Indian agents who know something about the native Indian, who know something about the bush and who know something about the conditions under which the Indian is living, and let them give those people some leadership. All the trouble cannot be borne by the Indian agent because the department has so many statistics for these fellows to fill in that if they did know the difference between a rabbit track and a snowshoe track they could not get out into the bush to see it. All their time is taken up filling out statistics on births, deaths, family allowances and all the rest of it.

In the Northwest Territories there are two Indian agencies, one at Yellowknife and the other at Fort Norman. These two Indian agencies look after 4,500 Indians. It takes an Indian agent at least six weeks in the summertime just to cover these places, one day at each, to pay treaty money. The agent has not a chance to get out and see the people. But in the same area the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources has game wardens, chief game wardens, mammologists and all the rest of it, looking after game. There is something wrong with the salesmanship in the department of Indian affairs when northern affairs can sell treasury board on a staff of 23 to look after game in the same area in which the department of Indian affairs can sell treasury board on a staff of four to look after human beings, the natives. I am going to make a suggestion to the minister. I suggest to the minister that he go to the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and have every game warden in the Northern Territories act as Indian agent in the communities they are stationed. These people are living with the Indians. As a matter of fact, some of the game wardens have told me that during the winter time there is not too much for them to do, anyway, and they would gladly go out to Slave Lake to organize the Indians and help them in commercial fishing. They would stay with them; they would gladly do it. I sincerely suggest to the minister that something be done. I do not say that they should build up an empire and have Indian agents all over the place. Why can they not use game wardens who are doing nothing for half the time in the winter. If they did