

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. You have three vacancies now?—A. Four vacancies.

Q. It would be impossible for one man to cover all the ground?—A. Well, he could not do it.

Q. So it is not really being administered competently now?—A. The agency administration falls on a junior clerk, and so on, and the bulk of the burden is carried by me in the office. In most cases it is impossible to be in close touch with agency administration from the Vancouver office.

Mr. BROWN: Would it be possible, or advisable, to fill with Indians any of these vacancies that now exist; I mean, are there any obstacles?

The WITNESS: I do not think there has ever been any obstacle in the way of an Indian applying for position, but they would be required to meet the requirements in the same way as anyone else.

*By Mr. Case:*

Q. I have been interested in this all the way through. I cannot understand why Indians might not administer their own affairs, particularly on their own reserves, in their own bands and so on; but, could an Indian, being a party to a treaty entered into by the government, administer that treaty, deal with affairs which relate to the government? After all, he is a party to the treaty. Could you employ an Indian, qualified or otherwise, to administer a treaty and the regulations made thereunder, a treaty to which he was himself a party so to speak?—A. There are no treaty Indians in British Columbia, sir.

Q. You have no treaty Indians?—A. Not under the jurisdiction of the commissioner. We have treaty Indians, but they are not really under the commissioner.

Q. They have no full civil or citizenship rights, have they?—A. I beg your pardon.

Q. Have they full citizenship rights in British Columbia?—A. No, they have not.

Q. Then is there something which bars them from administering their own affairs; I mean, as it relates to administration by the government.—A. They can obtain those rights through the Indian Act. I mean, the Indian Act provides the way to full citizenship.

Q. To full citizenship?—A. Yes. We are enfranchising Indians, from time to time.

Q. Is there anything then to prevent the appointment of Indians to carry out the work which you are seeking them to do?—A. Not if they meet the requirements.

Q. Nothing in the Act to prevent their appointment?—A. No, not to my knowledge.

Q. So it would be reasonable under the law to assume then that they could administer something to which they are themselves subject?—A. As I read it, I should think that they would have a perfect right to do so.

Mr. CHARLTON: Have there been any such appointments made?

Mr. HOEY: We have an Indian agent at Lorette, a Mr. Bastien in the service as Indian agent with the Lorette band. That is a group of Indians located north of Quebec city.

Mr. MACNICOL: Is he a full-blooded Indian?

Mr. HOEY: I do not know if he is a full-blooded Indian or not, I do know that he is an Indian in accordance with the Act.