

Supply—Indian Affairs

Mr. CRERAR: That has been the problem. There are instances where the church authorities entrusted with the conduct of many of the schools have suggested day schools to suit particular needs. I have not yet had an opportunity to make a thorough study of the different aspects of the question, and quite frankly I hesitate to give any judgment until I have had such opportunity. I understand the schools indicated in the estimate will render a definite service in the communities in which they will be built.

Mr. NEILL: In fairness I must say that there is one service which these day schools render, however inefficient they may be otherwise. They are always under the control of churches, and they form a sort of recruiting ground for boarding schools in districts perhaps fifty miles away. Also, as a rule missionary work is done, and some elementary ideas in religion are taught. They do some good in that connection, but more particularly as a recruiting ground so that the children may be sent to boarding schools when they reach the proper age. But as to teaching them, in comparison with boarding schools the day schools are not in the picture at all.

Mr. McIVOR: Having taught in an industrial Indian school I should like to give hon. members the benefit of my experience. There can be no doubt about the value of the surroundings in these schools. I noticed, however, that when the spring came and the tents of the older Indians were placed on the ground a feeling of restlessness would take possession of the children. Rules had to be made so that the children could not visit the tents, because if they did they had to be properly cleaned when they came back to school. It is a fact however that these schools have proved of great value in Saskatchewan. I taught in the school at Regina.

Item agreed to.

To provide for construction of roads, bridges and other engineering works on Indian reserves, \$24,512.

Mr. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Crooked lake is on the north side of the Crooked lake agency. The reserve is on the south side of the Qu'Appelle valley, and contains some beautiful lakes. For the last fifteen or twenty years a number of campers have located on the south side of the lake. I believe some of them have leased small lots and built cottages. There is no satisfactory road to get to the cottages. The hill which must be descended is very dangerous, and any improvements which have been made on it have been at the expense of the cottagers and campers. At the top of the hill there is a good landing field,

[Mr. Bennett.]

and on Sunday afternoons it is a common sight to see four or five aeroplanes on the field. People come in from North Dakota and land their aeroplanes on the top of the hill, after which they go down to the lakes to fish and bathe. It is one of the outstanding beauty spots in Saskatchewan, and is worthy of development. The government is spending a large amount of money in the development of national parks, and I would ask the minister to investigate this beauty spot in the Qu'Appelle valley and ascertain whether or not it would be possible to have a road built to the lake. It would have to be about six miles long, and would run through the agency. Sometimes as many as a hundred cars visit the lake on a Sunday, and they must pass through the reserve. It is annoying to the Indians and to the agent to have people passing through the reserve, and this traffic no doubt interferes with the agency. When the Indian Act was amended two years ago there was a provision for the expropriation of land in a reserve for road purposes. If it was handed over to the provincial government, they might share some of the cost of building the road. The construction would be through a level section of country, and would not be expensive. I am asking the minister to give the matter consideration, and to ascertain whether some money could be spent to develop this beauty spot in Saskatchewan. The lakes are teeming with fish, and there are splendid bathing and boating facilities.

Mr. CRERAR: The representations made by the hon. member will certainly receive consideration. In looking over the suggested expenditures under the vote I find the work he indicates is not included, but it may be possible to arrange expenditures so as to meet his request. All I can say is that we will give the matter consideration.

Mr. GREEN: I believe the minister has received a letter from the parks board of the city of Vancouver asking that his department clean up Kitsilano reserve, which is situated almost in the centre of the city. It is at the end of the Burrard street bridge, which connects the business district with one of the residential districts. There are no Indians on the reserve, nor have there been for about twenty-five years. There is considerable second growth, scrub timber, old stumps and garbage on the land, and it is really an eyesore. Furthermore it has been used as a hideout for criminals. I suggest the request of the parks board is reasonable, and federal authorities should get busy at once and have the reserve cleaned up. The