

He said: Honourable gentlemen, it was arranged that the honourable member for Russell (Hon. Mr. Murphy) was to make some explanations to the House on this report. Unfortunately he is not here, and I venture to say a few words in relation thereto.

I came to this Committee with a good deal of interest, but with no special knowledge as to the treatment by the Department of the Indian tribes of British Columbia. We had the advantage of the attendance of four members of the Commons from British Columbia, as well as the members of our own House; and I may say that I have never sat on a Committee whose proceedings were more instructive, or on which there was greater unanimity of opinion, or a more earnest desire on the part of its members to do what was right. The case was very much complicated by what I feel quite justified in describing as the misleading of the Indians by over-enthusiastic friends, who have carried on an agitation for a long time and have given the Indians exaggerated ideas of claims for which there was really no shadow of foundation. In other words, British Columbia was taken possession of by peaceful penetration. Fortunately there was no uprising of the Indians.

Anyone like myself, who was not well informed on the Indian problem, must have been struck by the enormous amount of work that is being done for the Indian tribes of Canada, and in a pre-eminent degree for those of British Columbia, because they were not receiving the annual tribute money, which, in what seemed to be the universal opinion, was not a desirable form of assistance to Indians. The schools and all the other efforts that were made to help them seemed admirable. The officials whom we saw gave the impression not only of competence, but of a real desire to do the very best they could for the Indians, with their old traditions, constantly changing.

More than that, we were all struck, I am sure, by the excellence of the material to which those agencies were being applied. The choice of words and the phrasing used by the two Indians who represented the Allied tribes, and the way in which they spoke, would be a credit to people highly trained in belles-lettres. As to Mrs. Williams, the interpreter who spoke for the older Chief, more than one of the members mentioned her admirable choice of words in translating.

I feel certain that every member of the Committee, from either House, would speak as I have done. I would certainly commend to all the members of this House a reading of the evidence and the report; for I think that even from the type they will get some

of those satisfactory impressions that all of us received who were present at the sittings of the Committee.

I therefore recommend to the House the adoption of the report.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

PENSION BILL

FIRST READING

Bill 234, an Act to amend the Pension Act.
Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF CONFEDERATION

RESOLUTION

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I have in my hand a resolution which has just been adopted unanimously in the House of Commons on the motion of the right honourable the Prime Minister, seconded by the leader of his Majesty's loyal Opposition. The leader of the Progressive party joined also, in order to make the resolution absolutely unanimous.

I think it is proper that this resolution should be recorded as the action of both branches of Parliament, as it is an official statement and an address to the people of Canada. I have asked my honourable friend, the leader of the Conservative party in this Chamber (Hon. W. B. Ross), to second this resolution. I do not style him the leader of His Majesty's loyal Opposition, because by his whole demeanour in this Chamber he has shown that he was not a leader of an opposition in this House in the same sense as the opposition leader in the other House.

I therefore move, seconded by Hon. W. B. Ross:

Resolved, that as Canada is approaching the Sixtieth Anniversary of her founding as a Dominion, the Parliament of Canada place on record its deep appreciation of the achievements of the Fathers of Confederation, and with united voice express its faith and confidence in the future of this our country, and its development as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, owing allegiance to His Majesty the King.

It is the earnest wish of Parliament that the Diamond Jubilee Celebration, for which plans are now being rapidly matured, shall commemorate appropriately and enthusiastically the accomplishment of Confederation and the subsequent progress of the Dominion. We trust that this commemoration will lend added inspiration to the patriotic fervour of our people, and afford a clearer vision of our aspirations and ideals, to the end that from sea to sea there may be developed a robust Canadian spirit, and in all things Canadian a pro-founder national unity.

The motion was agreed to.

At 1 o'clock the Senate took recess.