

Mr. RHEAUME: Then, on your suggestion would not, in fact, the executive council be the heads of the various changes that are working in the north?

Judge SISSONS: They were the heads of the department and then when they reached a certain stage you could have a ministry from the legislative assembly, and those named became the heads and the other fellows stepped down and became the deputy heads. My idea would be that at the start you take from Ottawa the heads of the various divisions of northern affairs, and they would be the heads, and then transfer these divisions to the Northwest Territories and make them into departments.

Mr. RHEAUME: But these people would not go.

Judge SISSONS: Well, of course, those that would go would go and those that do not would not be lost because they would not be interested in developing the north.

Mr. TURNER: Mr. Chairman, I take a slight objection to what Mr. Rheaume said. We have heard witnesses say there have been outstanding career officers in northern affairs who go up north. I think if you counted the people you would find there would be a great number who would be willing to live in the north.

Mr. RHEAUME: But, none of these people you refer to would be heads.

Judge SISSONS: I think there are good men in the northern affairs department in Ottawa who would be delighted to go and make their home up north, and that is the only type of men we want up there.

The CHAIRMAN: Could we settle the query of Mr. Dinsdale. The witness has given two types of view; he mentioned the type of government he would have in mind, but also he spent some time indicating to the committee that the Northwest Territories had a different type of government which was in line with the commitments made in the original arrangements with the British crown and that in some way the government of Canada has done away with that type of government, and he would like to see it revert. Is this so or not so? Did the Northwest Territories have a type of government that was mentioned or was it the province of Manitoba after coming into confederation? Where does the confusion lie?

I think much of your testimony was based on the constitutional fact that one type of government existed and then the government of this country just took it away, and I believe Mr. Justice Sissons would like to see it come back. Is that not the the gist of your testimony? Since a great part of the testimony was in that connection I think we should have this clarified and, perhaps, if not through him through another witness, so that the members of the committee will not be kept in the dark.

Mr. NIELSEN: With respect, Mr. Chairman, I have not heard what Mr. Justice Sissons has said on this point, but rather than saying the type of government the old Northwest Territories had was done away with I think perhaps a more accurate way of putting it would be that it has been subjected to encroachments over the years which has made serious inroads on what it used to be, and if Mr. Justice Sissons has been suggesting we now get back to the position that existed originally then this would be a sound proposition, in my view.

I would suggest to Judge Sissons the reason that these gradual encroachments were made were perhaps because of a lack of knowledge and interest in the north as now constituted by the Northwest Territories, by people living in southern Canada, by Canadians who thought of the north as a lot of snow and ice and something that was isolated in their minds. In addition to that, it may be because of a lack of any vociferous objection in the north of the federal government gradually assuming more and more all the responsibilities