

cate that 54 per cent have been granted some type of parole. The overall figure of paroles granted to inmates of the three prairie provinces who have been interviewed by the panel members with me is 53 per cent. Do not forget that these are the figures of just one Parole Board member travelling with one other making up the panel. I have the names and file numbers and any other information that you may wish on them and trust you can accept that. When I refer to some kind of parole, I include the whole gambit, from Parole Granted, Parole in Principle, minimum Parole and Day Parole. Does this answer your question?

Senator Williams: It still appears to me that the job opportunity is one of the biggest deciding factors for an Indian who gets parole. I am of the opinion that in most cases he does not know where to start. We have had a few coming to our office who have expressed themselves as to how they feel when they come outside. They are definitely lost, they do not know where they are, they do not know where to go, and they seem to have lost part of themselves somewhere. That is my own experience.

Also, many of the younger people who are on probation make the mistake of coming into our office, as if we were the probation office, and half the time they do not know where they are. They just come in scared.

Mr. Maccagno: I would have to agree in one respect, that there is a problem, undoubtedly. But let us analyze what you have just said, and put it in another way. Is it strictly a parole problem? Is there a high rate of employment among the native people who have never gone to penitentiary?

Senator Williams: I would say no, but those who have not gone to penitentiary have a better opportunity because they are on foot.

Mr. Maccagno: They have a better opportunity because they are on foot, but do the records show that there is a high employment rate, are there a good number of them fully employed?

Senator Williams: There are very few in the Province of British Columbia who are employed for long lengths of time, because in that province the native people are seasonal workers. They could be in industry, they could be in the mining, a good many in fishing, and in the agricultural areas. It is mostly seasonal work. Those who are not, and those who are outside, who have not been in these institutions, have employment, but during the seasons.

Mr. Maccagno: There is a lot of unemployment, too?

Senator Williams: When the seasons are off. The employment ratio of the British Columbia Indian is fairly good.

Mr. Maccagno: I do know, sir, that when we are on the panel and they come before us, as far as the board members are concerned, we certainly pass on to them all the information that we have. There is no question about that. We make every effort to assist them but experience many difficulties. These do not pertain only to the person in penitentiary, although the fact that he is in penitentiary certainly does not help at all.

However, there are certain opportunities available in the penitentiaries. One can upgrade himself and there are a

good number of inmates who have upgraded themselves and who have taken on vocational skills. These vocational opportunities are available; some take advantage of them and others do not. Again, upon release some take advantage of this additional knowledge while others do not. This does not apply to the native people only, but we find the same thing applies right across the board.

Senator Williams: You will understand that he may have taken some form of vocational training while he is within. Then comes parole. Actually, he has no qualification status. He may lack Grade 12 or whatever the case may be. Take a young Métis woman. She may train as a nurse's aid or as a practical nurse, but she has no recognition in hospitals or institutions, because she has not got that grade standard.

The Chairman: I think this is really going beyond the question of parole. We have figures of the percentage here, in Mr. Maccagno's area, and he has said they are approximately the same, with a shade difference, as to the parolees among them.

Senator Thompson: Mr. Chairman, may I make the point that I do not think it is getting beyond the parole question? However, in another area, we will be looking at training within institutions.

The Chairman: That is right. That is what I had in mind, that we will have penitentiary people here who will look at that. A question that might be asked, if someone wishes to ask it, is whether, of the 32 per cent of parolees who are unemployed, do we have figures as to what percentage are native people? This would answer your question, I think, and get down closer to what you are at, Senator Williams. Do you keep any statistics on that kind of question?

Mr. Stevenson: No.

Mr. Miller: No running statistics, Mr. Chairman, but a survey could be made.

The Chairman: I wonder if that could be done for us, then.

Senator McGrand: Senator Thompson referred to the service we give to certain immigrants in the finding of jobs, a service which is not given to ex-prisoners. Is this due in any way to the reluctance of employers to employ ex-prisoners? As I understand it, when foreigners come to our country there is a kind of mutual help that they receive from little ethnic communities of their own. They tend to help each other. That is something that ex-prisoners do not benefit from; they do not have that feeling of community.

Mr. Street: On the other hand, ex-prisoners usually get a great deal of help from their families, friends, relatives, and so on. They have the same access to manpower resources as anyone else, plus the fact that they have after-care agencies and us helping them.

Senator McGrand: But do employers hesitate to give employment to ex-prisoners?

Mr. Street: Naturally, there is some difficulty. I think it is not as bad as it was. If the inmate has a trade, I say he can get the job; but most of them do not have a trade. I suspect that most of the immigrants coming into the country are