

Q. No; a farmer is picked out in a district—in Cape Breton there are four places—fertilizer is given, and this man grows a rotation of crops close to the road so that everybody can see the advantage of it?—A. Nothing very much in British Columbia along that line, not so far.

Dr. SCOTT: I would like to direct Mr. Ditchburn's attention to the fact, so that he might get the evidence on the point, that instruction takes place at our residential schools. Take the Kamloops school, which is in the dry belt—all the Indian pupils being recruited from the dry belt,—we have an elaborate system of irrigation where the boys become acquainted with methods of cultivation under irrigation. We endeavour to carry out that system at all our industrial schools; have the tuition follow the line of the after life of the pupil.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. With regard to this question of aboriginal title, have you anything to say as to what you have heard expressed by the Indians?—A. Well, as to the merits of the question, of course I am not prepared to argue, but I do know that it is a canker in the minds of the Indians to-day. If it were removed, either by proving that there was a claim, that they had an interest in the lands of the province, or proving to them that they had not, it would go very far towards more satisfactory working out of the administration of affairs by this Department.

Q. That applies to the whole province, does it?—A. All over the province.

Q. With the tribes all over?—A. Generally, yes. There are some tribes that are not so much interested in it as are others. The tribes in the northern interior, up through the Cassian country, and over to the east of the Rocky Mountains, or up through the Fort St. James district, do not bother about it at all; we never hear a peep out of them.

Q. Then you heard Chief Chillihitza's evidence yesterday about that water on the Nicola River? He was complaining that the provincial Government had allowed people in the Okanagan to take water that he thought ought to come down to the Nicola Reserve. Have you heard anything about that?—A. I could not understand just what he was alluding to. I thought he was alluding to the Guichon Creek trouble. At the Guichon Creek, which empties into the Nicola River, the Government Water Board have allowed a diversion by Tunket Lake.

Q. Into another watershed?—A. At the top of the watershed, the water which would otherwise be running down to the west into Nicola River, they allow this water to be diverted; known as the Lughton diversion. If that is what he had reference to, I cannot see that it is doing the Indians any harm, provided a proper date is set for closing off that diversion.

Q. Well, of course, Colonel Pragnell would know a great deal more than you do about that?—A. He would not know any more. Just what Johnnie Chillihitza had reference to, I could not say. Water going over the divide into the Okanagan, of course that is another divide altogether.

The CHAIRMAN: I know that Mr. Frank Ward has told me that he thinks the Department in British Columbia treated him very badly over that, and I thought it was the same thing with the Indians.

*By Mr. Hay:*

Q. Do the young people still harbour the thought that the land ownership will ultimately be vested in them?—A. Do you mean the land on the reserves, or the aboriginal title?

Q. The aboriginal title.—A. They read as they run of course, and their idea of the aboriginal title is much more exaggerated than that of the old people.