

of tree fruit growing and small fruit growing on a commercial basis. Most of the Indians grow small fruits and tree fruits for their own use and a good many of them are interested in subsistence farming.

The type of farming that best suits the Indian in that section and in other sections of British Columbia is cattle raising because he can leave his own area and visit here and there. He knows quite well that the cattle will be still on the range when he returns but one cannot take that attitude with respect to berries because of their perishable character and the same applies to fruit. In the area north of the 52nd parallel between the 52nd and the 54th—

Hon. Mr. STIRLING: Would you indicate where that is?

The WITNESS: Somewhere between the town of Clinton, should I say, and Seventy-Mile House on the Cariboo road and parallel 54 is some sixty miles north of the town of Quesnel, in that area. The Indians are engaged almost entirely in cattle raising and trapping in that part of the province. From the 54th parallel north to the north boundary of British Columbia, the Indians are engaged in trapping almost entirely.

On the mainland coast and on Vancouver Island, the Queen Charlotte Islands and other islands in the Pacific, the Indians derive their living mostly from fishing and lumbering.

Now of the great area of land in the province of British Columbia under Indian control there is only something like 37,000 to 38,000 acres under cultivation. There are some 250,000 acres cleared but not cultivated.

Perhaps I may go back for a moment to cattle raising. The Indians of the province own something like 17,000 head of cattle.

Mr. CASE: That is in the whole province?

The WITNESS: Yes, in the whole province. There are also about 1,100 sheep, approximately 1,300 pigs and 45,000 poultry.

We have endeavoured to encourage the extension of the cattle industry among the Indians because it suits them. Our method of encouraging them is to buy for them foundational stock and purebred sires.

Irrigation is necessary to some extent in the Lillooet and Cariboo districts. There has been some criticism of the department for not spending more money on irrigation projects. I do not think that we should go ahead in spending money on the Indians beyond their capacity to use the systems provided. We had an unfortunate experience in that respect in British Columbia where a very expensive installation was constructed only to find that the Indians made practically no use whatever of it. We must, in the matter of expenditures for irrigation, endeavour to determine to what extent the Indians are prepared to make use of the system and the water provided.

I may say this, that I do not recall since I have been in the service an occasion where the department refused to proceed with the construction of irrigation works applied for by the agent, as the result of representations made to him by the Indians. We have a responsibility as servants of the people to protect the public interest in the matter of expenditures.

Let us go on now to the industry of trapping. For many years in British Columbia there was no restriction really with respect to trapping. One could pick up a trapline and say it was his and proceed to trap, but in 1925 the province of British Columbia under the British Columbia Game Act passed certain resolutions, instituted a system or registration of traplines and in the following year they put those regulations into force. The Indians have 1,560 traplines in British Columbia which represents about 50 per cent of the traplines held in that province. Of the 1,560 Indian registrations 258 covered group or partnership registrations. There could be anywhere from 2 to 20 or 28 members in that group. There has been some opposition in certain parts of British Columbia to continuing the system of block registration because of the