

that these were two of the more prosperous reserves. Nevertheless there seemed to be an identical problem there, or series of problems. Do you think we would find that generally throughout the Indian communities of this country?

Mr. DINSDALE: It is unfortunate the Committee could not have been in Winnipeg last Saturday. There were 500 delegates gathered in from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I was more disappointed than that really, in B.C., to be quite honest, because I thought members had a wonderful opportunity—

Mr. DINSDALE: Well, the Indians themselves were doing all the talking on Saturday. The guest speakers at the banquets and luncheons were Indians; the chairmen of proceedings were Indians.

There were reports from each of the chiefs of the council there, and their criticisms, their briefs, were identical with those that we heard at Caughnawaga and at St. Regis.

But the significant development is that for the first time the Indians themselves are talking and expressing themselves, and are able to communicate with the white community. This was the 13th annual meeting of the conference in Winnipeg, and it had been the intention, when these meetings were first organized, that the control of all proceedings would ultimately pass to the Indians themselves. This was pretty well accomplished this year, and it was quite encouraging to see this development.

The man who chaired Saturday's meeting is a Sioux from Oak River Reservation, and 15 years ago he could not have put two sentences together, but he was up there controlling that large crowd in a very capable and efficient manner.

The CHAIRMAN: If you do not mind, may I just comment on your statement. In other words, you agree that the grievances at the Winnipeg Conference, seemed to be identical to those in St. Regis and in Caughnawaga. I have the feeling—and again I do not pretend to be an expert—that perhaps the Indian has been over-protected.

Mr. DINSDALE: Well, paternalism has been the curse of the Indians; we destroyed their civilization and they have never integrated with our civilization. They are what you might call marginal people between two worlds. But now they are re-exerting Indian culture and a sense of pride in their own Indian background, which is a very hopeful development. I think history should be re-written because when the Indian would slay the white man, it was a massacre, but when the white man slew the Indian it was what?

An hon. MEMBER: A glorious victory.

Mr. DINSDALE: Yes, a glorious victory.

Mr. BARNETT: Mr. Chairman, I naturally was quite disappointed that the projected trip to British Columbia had to be postponed. Mr. Dinsdale raised the question as to whether there had been any notification to the Indian people in British Columbia. Perhaps, in case any member might hear of anything, I should report that following the decision of the Committee that it was going to accept