

*Indian Act*

still stands and is the balance of the land that is still held by these great and valiant people who settled there following the American revolution.

Following the war of American independence came the war of 1812. I should like to remind the house that during that war there was only a thin line of settlers all the way from Amherstburg to Soulanges. It is true that these settlers stayed loyal to the British crown at that time of stress, but had it not been for the Indian population I am quite certain that our province of Upper Canada would have fallen to the invader. At the time England was involved in European wars and all she had here to protect this part of Ontario, the part in which I reside, was the militia. It was not adequate to meet the invader but the Indians stood to the last man and as a result we were able to hold Upper Canada. We have today, therefore, the province of Ontario, but had it not been for that contribution the Indians made I have my doubts whether that large part of Canada would be on the map of Canada today. What we owe to these Indians who stood under the leadership of Joseph Brant loyally by the crown of England is incalculable. As a result, today we have our Dominion of Canada, of which we are all so proud.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in mentioning that contribution of the Indians, I have to mention my own city of Brantford, named after Captain Joseph Brant, the leader of the Mohawks, the leader of the Six Nations confederacy about which I have spoken. This noble and valiant figure will go down in history as one of the greatest of all Canadians. The point where he settled on the Grand river, and where he crossed the Grand river, was known as Brant's ford, and hence came the name of Brantford. Had it not been for Joseph Brant, there would not be a Brantford on the map of Canada today or a county of Brant.

I know it is sentimental, but as the member for Brantford, I cannot help recalling those acts in those days in dealing with the legislation which we have in front of us today. In the centre of Brantford is a large park called Victoria park and in the centre of that park is a magnificent monument to Joseph Brant. As long as I have lived there and practised law I have passed that monument every day coming to and going from home. Every time I passed that monument I used to think of the contribution that that stalwart figure made to our nation and country.

Various hon. members have spoken of the many contributions of the Indian people.

[Mr. Brown (Brantford).]

Something has been said of their oratory. I wish we could hear some of that oratory in this house. I have heard some of it in the English language. They are orators in the English tongue as well as in their own tongue. I feel that the contribution they have made to Canada has not come to fruition by any means. I am certain the day will come when they will play the part that they played of old in the history of Canada. Back in the history of the Six Nations confederacy is the figure of Deganawida. He united the six warlike tribes of the Mohawk valley, who had spent all their time at war with each other. He conceived the idea that they could sit down and discuss their problems, smoke the pipe of peace and arrive at a solution of some of these problems and live in mutual peace instead of destroying each other. Out of that concept today we have the United Nations. There have been several authors who have drawn a comparison between what Deganawida said in his day and what has been done during the last few years under the United Nations. That comparison has been made many times and it cannot be made too often. Something also has been said about the vote being given to Indians. I remember last year I put a motion on the order paper to the effect that the federal vote be extended to Indians. I still feel that the day is coming when that vote will be given with no strings attached, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the Indians be allowed to preserve all the rights they have under treaties and otherwise of the past and at the same time be accorded the vote if they wished to exercise it so that they could have some say in the affairs of our country.

I know the day will come when there will be Indians sitting in this House of Commons and in the Senate of Canada. I look forward to that day and I know it will come. I know it cannot be brought in under this bill but I think it will come.

May I also speak just for a moment about the contribution that Indians make to our national life in the line of athletics? They are supple, active and fleet. I know that over the years they are going to play a larger part in that field and make Canada proud of the contribution of her first citizens to our national life.

In speaking of the Indians, again I should like to remind the committee of the contribution the Indian people have made since 1812. It did not end there. In the war of 1914-18 and in world war II the Indians of the Six Nations confederacy gave their all for what our country stood for and to what we were committed in those two great wars. Everyone knows that. As a result of all those