

REPORT ON THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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missioner in Council of the Northwest Territories. Since then, the education of white children and children of mixed blood has been the responsibility of the Territorial Government. By agreement, however, the actual administration of education in the Territories is discharged by the Department of Northern Affairs. The Department is responsible for the education of Eskimos wherever they may be, and by agreement with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, for the education of Indians in the Northwest Territories. The Territorial Government makes a financial contribution proportionate to the attendance of children other than Indians and Eskimos.

"Also in 1946, the first government educational organization for the Territories was set up with the appointment of an Inspector of Schools for the Mackenzie District, and the creation of an Education Division in what is now the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Since then, the educational establishment for the Northwest Territories and for Eskimos in northern Quebec has steadily expanded. By 1950, the total staff of the Education Division, including teachers, caretakers and Headquarters administrative staff, totalled 60. By 1956, it had more than doubled to 125. Today it stands at 271 and next year a further increase is planned to bring the total to 350.

"The problem of expanding school facilities has been made more difficult by the scattered nature of the Eskimo and Indian population which has meant that residential facilities for many of the children attending school have had to be provided. In the past four years, hostels have been built by the Government at Fort McPherson, Yellowknife and Fort Smith to accommodate 400 children. By agreement, these hostels, intended primarily for Eskimo and Indian children, are operated on the Government's behalf by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. At Yellowknife, the Akaitcho Hostel designed to accommodate children from outlying parts who attend the Sir John Franklin School is operated by the Government itself.

"Along with the expansion in physical facilities, there has been built up a teaching staff of the very finest quality. I am told that the educational qualifications of territorial teachers are the highest in Canada, that a larger proportion hold university degrees than in any province, and that, in spite of the sometimes difficult living conditions, the turnover is the lowest in Canada. On behalf of this Council, I should like to pay public tribute to the dedicated men and women who are engaged in this challenging and rewarding work.

"During the past five years, greatly increased emphasis has been placed on vocational

training and nearly 700 persons have been trained in forty different fields, ranging all the way from carpentry, welding and mechanics to hairdressing and nurses aides. Almost half of the trainees have been Eskimos with the balance fairly evenly divided between Indians and whites.

"In spite of all that I have said about the rapid educational progress of the postwar years, the sober fact remains that we are still a long way from making educational opportunity universally available to every child in the Territories. Even in the Mackenzie District, the most easily accessible and most densely settled part of the Territories, one school age child in ten is without educational facilities. In the Keewatin District, two out of three children of school age are without schools, while in the District of Franklin only one child in five has a school to attend. And although the 49 additional classrooms planned for next year will accommodate from 800 to 900 children, this will do little more than meet the natural increase in children of school age. In short, we have made enormous progress in the last few years, but there is still a great deal to be done.

"Today we are at a midway point in the developing educational programme for the Territories. A dozen years ago there were government schools for no one; a dozen years from now there should be schools for everyone; schools where they can receive the knowledge and skills required for a satisfying, meaningful and productive life in Canada's changing North".

Turning to other matters, Mr. Robertson said:

"I am happy to report to Council that the Northwest Territories will be honoured by a visit to Yellowknife on Monday, July 20 by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, during their forthcoming tour of Canada. The Territories have before played host to Prince Philip and to His Excellency, the Governor-General, and I am sure that next summer the Royal Couple will be heartened by the warm and friendly welcome they will undoubtedly receive from the people of Yellowknife and the surrounding area.

"In my opening address at our last meeting, I referred to the decision of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to effect a very substantial expansion and improvement in the radio service available to the people of Northern Canada. Already the 'Voice of the Golden North', CFYK Yellowknife, has been taken over by the C.B.C. and is now providing regular service under the direction of its new Manager, Mr. A.J. Stewart, formerly a C.B.C. producer in Toronto. A license has been requested for a new station at Fort Smith where studio space has been provided in the basement of the new school. These are but the first

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