

Mr. ADSHEAD: Are they consulted as to the kind of religion they want their children taught?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Always.

Mr. NEILL: I should like to ask whether a situation like this would not obtain: if some piece of Indian territory or reserve is needed for a public purpose such as a railway, the consent of the band has to be obtained. They are paid so much of the sum, I think it is 50 per cent, in cash and the balance is put into their fund. There is always great difficulty in getting the Indians to sign because they say—"What is the use of our signing? We get only 50 per cent and the other 50 per cent you take and keep. You use it for relief; now you are using it for schools." The government is going to make it more difficult to get Indians to agree to this sort of thing. The interest on the money has been used to pay for relief and the department pays for relief in any case. The next time the Indians are asked to give up land, they will say: "What is the use? They are going to take half of our money and use it for themselves." That is the way the Indian will look at the matter and I must say there is a good deal of truth in it.

Mr. SMOKE: This section and a number of subsequent sections seem to have general application to all Indians throughout the Dominion of Canada. In my constituency and in that of my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Senn) there is what is ordinarily called an Indian reserve. It is not really an Indian reserve such as those existing in other parts of the country because the land upon which these Indians live was ceded to them by King George III in the latter part of the eighteenth century. These Indians were not native Canadian Indians; they were New York Indians or Indians from the other side of the line who took the part of the British crown in the revolutionary war and when Britain lost that war they were granted by Governor Haldimand of Canada the right to come over here, take six miles wide on either side of the Grand river from mouth to source and occupy it in the same way as they occupied lands over in New York state. That was a treaty. From that day to this they have had a certain measure of self-government recognized by every authority. It is true that their measure of self-government has been encroached upon from time to time by the Dominion parliament and that there has been considerable dissatisfaction amongst these Indians on that account. The Indians of the Six Nations are as civilized as the

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

white men around them. They follow our way of life. They have some peculiar customs of their own, traditional customs, to which they are greatly attached. They do not like their rights to be encroached upon. I would ask the Minister of the Interior whether the Six Nations Indian council, which has charge of the administration of affairs of that band, have been consulted with regard to this legislation, and whether their approval has been obtained.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): They have not, because I do not see any reason for consulting the Six Nations Indians or any other band of Indians unless the legislation is going to interfere with their administration. The question of education is not one in regard to which we have been consulting the Indians. We have been endeavouring to have the Indian Act amended so as to give the Indian child the same class of education that he would receive were he attending a public school in the province in which he is located. Moreover, the government of Canada are providing all the money; they are building the schools; they are maintaining them; they are giving grants for the teaching and so far as I know, outside of the annuities that are paid under treaty, which annuities are used for educational purposes, the Indians are given all those privileges which, if I may say so frankly, their white brothers do not enjoy without paying for. I am of course not making any complaint in that regard. The Six Nations Indians are not treated differently from any other band.

Mr. SMOKE: I maintain that they should be treated differently because they are in a different class. The Indians elsewhere in the country formerly inhabited the whole country and as time went on reserves were set aside for them. This was not a reserve set aside for Indians; this was a parcel of land ceded to them and their method of government was conceded to them. They are in an entirely different position from that of other Indians in Canada; they are in a class by themselves. I wish the Minister of the Interior and indeed, every hon. member, would make a study of the history of the Six Nations Indians. It is very little known. They have in this country, as they believe and as I believe, rights which are not recognized, and when legislation is introduced affecting the rights of the Six Nations Indians, they should be consulted because they have a council which has control of the administration of their own affairs. I think the consideration of this bill ought to be