

Mr. HOEY: It is the toughest task I have ever undertaken, the most discouraging. There is no sense of appreciation, no sense of recognition.

Mr. MACNICOL: You mean by the white people?

Mr. HOEY: By anybody. I got a letter from an Indian woman three weeks ago. Her boy was killed overseas and I enlarged a photo snap and sent it back to her as a token of my personal appreciation. I got a letter of appreciation from that woman, and that is the first letter of appreciation I got from any source in the department in eight years.

The CHAIRMAN: The committee will give you a vote of appreciation right here.

Mr. MACNICOL: I think the committee wants to help you. We have never had an opportunity like this before to get the background of what you are up against. Every year the departmental estimates come in and they are very meagre. Very likely you do not ask for enough. Perhaps you have not been asking the government to do what you would envision should be done yourself.

Mr. HOEY: It is not an easy thing, Mr. MacNicol, if a man has a sense of responsibility to say just how much he should ask in a critical period like this when we are fighting for our survival. It is not an easy thing for me to make up my mind and say flippantly, "Give me a million dollars for this and a million dollars for the other thing." I look upon these matters rather seriously. I think this is the proper time to review the whole Indian problem. Incidentally, I think the policy in respect to Indian affairs in this country was influenced to some extent by the thought that the red man was disappearing. A very outstanding member of the Anglican church said to me the first year I entered the department, "The better Indians will become gradually assimilated and the others are dying off. There is not going to be any Indian problem a few decades from now." What are the actual facts? The Indian population on the North American continent is increasing more rapidly than any other racial group.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that true both in Canada and the United States?

Mr. HOEY: Yes, and Mexico. On the North American continent it is increasing more rapidly than any other racial group. Our Indian population is increasing at the rate of 1,500 a year. My school population is increasing at the rate of 300 additional pupils.

Mr. MACNICOL: Are you able to get teachers?

Mr. HOEY: Not fully qualified teachers.

Mr. MACNICOL: For instance, we have mentioned Moose Lake two or three times, and Tom Lamb's school. Tom Lamb's school is a nice school, but I believe it was closed for most of a year. What would be the reason for that?

Mr. HOEY: Failure to secure teachers. A great many teachers before they were frozen—I think that is the term—thought that they could render greater service to the nation by going into war industries. A teacher comes to my office and says, "Mr. Hoey, I am idle two months in a year. This nation is at war. I am going to go into a war industry. I am going to leave your school." What can you say to a girl like that?

Mr. MACNICOL: Perhaps I have not told you the full story. I believe the Anglican clergyman stationed at Moose lake was also the teacher. He in turn would be appointed by the bishop of the diocese. Perhaps the fault was that the bishop could not get an Anglican minister to go up there who would also act as teacher and for that reason perhaps they did not have a teacher there.

Mr. HOEY: We have done reasonably well. Our schools have all been open with the exception of about a dozen. The churches have succeeded in getting teachers where we have failed.

The CHAIRMAN: Any further questions?