

Indians grow some scrubby trees around villages and the fruit is not worth very much.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. Is the matter of water legislation the subject solely of provincial jurisdiction, or jointly provincial and Dominion jurisdiction?—A. It is wholly provincial.

Q. At the present time it is wholly provincial?—A. Yes. You will see that in dealing with any of these old water records, or in making an appeal to the Courts, we must deal under the British Columbia water rights.

Q. In conjunction with the British Columbia Government?—A. Yes.

Q. You heard the witness yesterday urge that there should be more intensive education, I think he called it, of the Indians with regard to agriculture, fruit growing, and so on. Have you anything to say to the Committee on that point?—A. I think it is a very good suggestion. It is the policy of the Department at the present time. The great difficulty is that the Indians do not seem to appreciate the efforts that are put forth in their direction to benefit by this education.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. Could you give the Committee an idea of some of those efforts in the direction of intensive education?—A. Well, as I explained a little while ago, we have a special man going around the province, throughout the agricultural districts, teaching the Indians how to grow fruit.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. One man?—A. One man, yes.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. Over the whole province?—A. Yes. Of course, through certain sections of the province there is no use in teaching at all; on the coast district, for instance, which is not an agricultural district.

Q. Has anything been done in the way of congregating the Indians at special points and giving them what is generally understood as a course of education in agriculture, or anything of that kind?—A. At the schools?

Q. Yes.—A. At our residential schools in the interior we teach the children the rudimentary principles of agriculture.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. Is there any institution similar to the agricultural college in the prairie provinces, where they can attend and learn fruit culture?—A. There is a provincial college. There is one man that we almost put through with a special course, a man named Harris.

*By Hon. Mr. Stevens:*

Q. He was an Indian?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. McPherson:*

Q. Can the Indians go there after they have obtained high school or ordinary school education?—A. I do not think the Department has ever turned down a worthy case where we thought we would get results.

*By Hon. Mr. Murphy:*

Q. That is, a promising man would get a chance?—A. Yes.

Q. Has the Department done anything in the way of providing demonstration plots which we have elsewhere?—A. Like experimental farms, as it were?

[Mr. W. E. Ditchburn.]