

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

Mr. Drew: That is right.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): We think that the accommodation we have, or that we are providing for, is required. They are taking in Indian pupils at the provincial school, but this additional accommodation is necessary.

Mr. Hatfield: Is there anything in this vote for expansion of the school at Tobique reserve?

Mr. Charlton: Did I understand the minister to say that they are acquiring a school now run by the Church of England?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Yes.

Mr. Charlton: Is that the one?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Yes.

Mr. Charlton: And the \$100,000 includes the purchase and the repair of it?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Yes; we have been negotiating for some time to purchase the Church of England school and to add to it, and this is for that purpose.

Mr. Charlton: Have there been any other purchases of that kind across Canada?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): There is one other in the northwest, and there are several others that the Church of England has suggested we might buy, and we have been obtaining reports on them.

Mr. Drew: Will that be operated by the department or by the Church of England?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): Operated as a departmental school, but retaining the present connection of the Church of England in the sense that the facilities will be continued.

Mr. Coldwell: In the event of a change of this description can these schools be operated in conjunction with the provincial departments of education so that the certification of teachers and inspection of schools and conditions generally are analogous to those pertaining in the provinces that are contiguous

to those areas? Has any attempt been made by the department to enter into negotiations with any of the provinces? If so, with what results? I do think, in taking over schools like these and the department operating them, the department has not the facilities to do this kind of job that the provinces have. It seems to me that it would be sensible to work in co-operation with the provinces and with departments of education that would certify teachers, inspect the system and so on, supervise the schools and bring them up to standard. I think we are all anxious that the Indian children shall have the same levels of education as the other children in the country. I have always been of the opinion that given the opportunity the Indian children would measure up just as well as the children of any other group of Canadians, and would be able to play a much greater part in the life of the country, and do much for their own people in the way of giving those who have not those advantages a great deal of leadership.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): As the house knows, Mr. Chairman, we have followed a policy of permitting Indian children to attend provincial schools wherever convenient and possible, and that policy has shown that we have increased during the past year by something over 400 the numbers attending provincial schools. For example, in the last fiscal year, ended March, 1950, there were 1,645. There are now 2,032. If the committee would permit I would put on the record a statement showing the enrolment at Indian schools and the numbers attending the provincial schools as well, by grades and so on.

Mr. Coldwell: And by provinces?

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): And by provinces.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): The table follows: