

Indian Act

them with live stock, under supervision. Out of the proceeds of the increase of that stock the loan would be repaid in perhaps four or five years. It is our aim to have them understand that it is part of their responsibility to look after themselves. There is one reserve in Ontario, a part of Ontario in which one finds excellent farming land, in connection with which three years ago the relief bill was around \$15,000. Here the idea had grown among the Indians that since they were wards of the government, it was the duty of the government to look after them.

We are endeavouring to change all that. Last year on the reserve about which I have just spoken, enough vegetables were grown to carry them through the winter. We had to take out of ordinary appropriations moneys to build root houses, and the like, with the result that relief on that particular reserve has been cut to almost a third of what it was previously. We are endeavouring to get into the minds, not only of the Indians but of the people looking after the reserves, that within a year or two we want relief to become a thing of the past. The purpose behind the measure is to help achieve that end. That is why I said that I had no hesitation whatever in recommending the measure to the favourable consideration of the house.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I can only repeat that it is most unfortunate that these two distinct measures should be incorporated in one resolution.

Mr. CRERAR: No. If the hon. member will reserve his criticism in that respect until the bill which will follow the resolution is before the committee, I believe he will find that the matters are separate, and must be considered separately.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should be permitted to express my opinion on the resolution, because the bill is not yet before us. My suggestion was that it was unfortunate they should be put together because I at least, as one member of the house, have not understood the proposals. I thought there must be some connection between the two.

I can understand the minister's statement that there are wide differences between Indians at Brantford, where for several generations they have enjoyed tutelage, and Indians in those far northern parts of Saskatchewan or British Columbia where they do not enjoy the same advantages. I wish to point out, however, that if revenues are to be derived from these lands, or the minerals contained in them, those revenues ought to be used for the benefit of the Indians. I would insist further that the charges made for the leases

issued should be sufficiently great to protect the interests of the Indians. I believe it is true that the Indians have a claim on these lands. It will be difficult for us in the next generation or two to put the Indians on a par with the white people who have had the advantage of several generations of development along modern lines. For these reasons I urge we should not have to make contributions from the general fund to help the Indians when on a great many of these Indian lands there are resources sufficient to take care of the re-education of the Indians.

Mr. BRADETTE: By what standard will the department be guided in deciding that which is or is not a mineral area. I have in mind some difficulties which are being and have for some years been experienced by the province of Ontario. I have also in mind the fact that under the pretence of staking some mining claims, some people took over some of those closed lands. I have in mind the further fact that those lands were covered with valuable timber.

The minister and his department will readily realize the danger they may be in if they are not very careful in setting out a line of demarcation. I know his department has studied the matter from many angles; but I would point out that they would gain much by studying the experience of the authorities in Ontario responsible for the mines who, even at the present time, are having great difficulty. On these lands in certain reserves are found large quantities of pine and spruce, lands which appear very valuable to some big interests—and I use the term "big interests" open-mindedly. Those interests have taken over lands supposedly for purposes of mining, and have robbed them of their timber.

I do not know much about the situation in Quebec, although I do know something of the same kind has happened in the northern part of that province. I am familiar with the fact that it has happened several times in northern Ontario, when land which actually belonged to the crown was stripped of valuable timber belonging to the people. I believe the department is doing its utmost to advance the standing of the Indians. The fact remains, however, that in the last thirty years the opening up of northern Ontario has resulted in pushing back the Indians towards James bay and Hudson bay. They have practically all that field to themselves. In the James bay section there is the possibility of doing some farming. I know, however that the minister is fully aware of the possibilities

[Mr. Crerar.]