

to Canada. From that time on, a continuing administrative organization has been maintained for the protection and advancement of Indian interests.

Until 1860, the Imperial Government was responsible for the management and expense of Indian affairs, but in that year it was decided that the Province of Canada should assume the responsibility. Accordingly, the management of Indian affairs was brought under the control of the Crown Lands Department on July 1, 1860, the Commissioner of Crown Lands being from that date Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

By a special provision in the British North America Act of 1867, the administration of Indian affairs, which had been under the management of several provinces, came under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada. Indian affairs were made the responsibility of the Department of the Secretary of State at the time of Confederation, and, in 1873, they became the responsibility of a branch of the Department of the Interior. In 1880, a separate Department of Indian Affairs was established, which continued until 1936, when Indian affairs again became a branch, this time of the Department of Mines and Resources. Since January 1950, Indian affairs have been the responsibility of a branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

The primary function of the Indian Affairs Branch is to administer the affairs of the Indians of Canada in a manner that will enable them to become increasingly self-supporting and independent members of the community. Among the important functions of Canadian Indian administration are: the management of Indian reserves and surrendered land; the administration of band funds; education; welfare projects; relief; family allowances; rehabilitation of Indian veterans on reserves; descent of property; Indian treaty obligations; enfranchisement of Indians; and a variety of other matters. Administration is carried on through a headquarters staff at Ottawa and Indian agencies in the field, each agency being responsible for one or more reserves and bands. In addition to the superintendent, the staff of an agency may include a clerk, stenographer, and assistants according to its special requirements. Medical staff is provided, as required, by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The work of the agencies is supervised by eight regional supervisors and in British Columbia by a commissioner.

#### INDIAN TREATIES

Early in the settlement of North America, the British recognized an Indian title or interest in the soil that could be relinquished or done away with only if the Indians agreed and then only by transfer to the Crown. This gave rise to the practice of making agreements or treaties, as they were afterwards called, with individual tribes. The policy began during colonial times in what is now the United States and was afterwards introduced by the British into Canada.

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 provided that no Indian could be dispossessed of his lands without his consent and the consent of the Crown. In accordance with this principle, treaties have been made from time to time with various Indian tribes during the opening up of the country for settlement. In general, the terms were that, in recognition of the surrendering of Indian interest in the soil, the Crown undertook to set aside reserves and provide other benefits such as cash payments, annuities, educational facilities and other considerations. About half the Indian population of Canada are under formal treaties. The needs of Indians not under treaty, however, receive no less attention from the Government on that account.

The following is a summary of the main provisions of the Canadian Indian treaties. It may be noted that these do not include the Iroquois of Brantford and Tyendinaga or certain other groups who immigrated to Canada from what is now the United States and were given reserve lands in Canada.