

All proposed revisions are designed to make possible the gradual transition of Indians from wardship to citizenship and to help them to advance themselves.

In order to achieve these objectives, your Committee recommends, in addition to other recommendations hereinafter set out,

- (a) That the revised Act contain provisions to protect from injustice and exploitation such Indians as are not sufficiently advanced to manage their own affairs;
- (b) That Indian women of the full age of 21 years be granted the right to vote for the purpose of electing Band Councillors and at such other times as the members of the band are required to decide a matter by voting thereon;
- (c) That greater responsibility and more progressive measures of self government of Reserve and Band affairs be granted to Band Councils, to assume and carry out such responsibilities;
- (d) That financial assistance be granted to Band Councils to enable them to undertake, under proper supervision, projects for the physical and economic betterment of the Band members;
- (e) That such Reserves as become sufficiently advanced be then recommended for incorporation within the terms of the Municipal Acts of the province in which they are situate;
- (f) That the offence and penalty sections of the Indian Act be made equitable and brought into conformity with similar sections in the Criminal Code or other statutes;
- (g) That the Indians be accorded the same rights and be liable to the same penalties as others with regard to the consumption of intoxicating beverages on licensed premises, but there shall be no manufacture, sale or consumption, in or on a Reserve, of "intoxicants" within the meaning of the Indian Act;
- (h) That it be the duty and responsibility of all officials dealing with Indians to assist them to attain the full rights and to assume the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.

Your Committee was given "authority to investigate and report upon Indian administration in general" and, in particular, certain other matters, viz:—

#### 1. TREATY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Your Committee recommends that a Commission in the nature of a Claims Commission be set up, with the least possible delay, to inquire into the terms of all Indian treaties in order to discover and determine, definitely and finally, such rights and obligations as are therein involved and, further, to assess and settle finally and in a just and equitable manner all claims or grievances which have arisen thereunder.

#### 2. BAND MEMBERSHIP

To replace the definition of "Indian" which has been statutory since 1876, there must be a new definition more in accord with present conditions. Parliament annually votes moneys to promote the welfare of Indians. This money should not be spent for the benefit of persons who are not legally members of an Indian Band.

Your Committee believes that a new definition of "Indian" and the amendment of those sections of the Act which deal with Band membership will obviate many problems.

Your Committee recommends that in, the meantime, the Indian Affairs Branch should undertake the revision of existing Band membership lists.