

Mr. MATTHEWS: I have four headings here: agriculture, fishing, trapping and education. I wonder if Major MacKay would have any preference as to which of those headings he would care to discuss first?

The CHAIRMAN: Following administration, I think you have reserves and Indian lands.

Mr. BLACKMORE: And when does education come up?

The CHAIRMAN: Later on; but I believe there is a possibility that Major MacKay may be able to be with us again. It does not appear that we will be able to finish today.

Mr. MACNICOL: We are doing a good job today.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, we are.

Mr. BROWN: Could we not, in spite of the fact that we have said that we would not meet next Thursday, nevertheless do so in view of the fact that Major MacKay is here and he will probably be here next week. Could we not meet on Thursday?

Mr. CASE: There might be a little breach of faith there, because we indicated otherwise.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I wonder if Mr. Lickers would like to ask a question? I would like to see Mr. Lickers feel quite free to ask any question that comes to his mind at the time it comes to his mind.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the understanding of the committee. Shall we go on to reserves and Indian lands?

Mr. MACLEAN: We are doing some construction work down at Eskasoni. Is it the intention to move all the Indians at present at Nyanza down to Eskasoni?

Mr. HOEY: The construction work at Eskasoni and at Shubenacadie in Nova Scotia represents an attempt to centralize the entire Indian population in Nova Scotia upon those two reserves, those two centres. That policy was followed after an investigation which was made a few years ago. Our policy is to encourage elderly Indians and those who have experienced difficulty in securing employment, to go there. But where an Indian is fully employed and living usefully and is experiencing no difficulty in securing employment and supporting himself, we would not disturb him. That would not be our intention.

Q. I know some of the people at Nyanza are objecting to going down there.—
A. I would have to know just what their circumstances are.

Q. The new place is much better than the old place?—A. Our ultimate objective is to dispose of those two lands and consolidate them so as to have a school, a hospital, a nursing station, and an agent and doctor in charge. I think it is one of the most forward steps that is being taken in Indian administration over a great many years, but it has been retarded as a result of the war.

The CHAIRMAN: The next heading is agriculture.

The WITNESS: I wonder if I could reply to a part of the question submitted by the honourable Mr. Stirling this morning which had to do with cut-off lands in British Columbia. I looked up the information I had on it and if I might be permitted to read from this McBride Agreement which is dated September 24, 1912: it was provided that lands, which the commissioner shall determine are not necessary for the use of Indians, shall be subdivided and sold by the province at public auction, and such lands shall be known as cut-off lands. Now, following that, we found it somewhat difficult to deal with the cut-off lands inasmuch as we pretty well seemed to have a joint control, the province owning 50 per cent and the Dominion, on behalf of the Indians, the other 50 per cent. So that, in 1941 arrangements were made whereby the province of British