

they receive. I think the amendments suggested here are to the advantage of the Indians themselves.

Mr. COOTE: Could the minister tell us just how long these Indians are kept in the boarding schools and what vacations they get each year?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I cannot give my hon. friend the period of vacation, but we try to give them an annual holiday in order to permit them to visit their parents.

Mr. NEILL: They get one month each year, in addition to a short holiday at Christmas.

Section agreed to.

On section 4—removal of cattle.

Mr. FRASER: What is the explanation of section 4?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): It simply provides that in all cases the cattle either in charge of or owned by the individual will not be disposed of without the consent of the agent. Later on this is made a little more emphatic.

Section agreed to.

Sections 5 and 6 agreed to.

On section 7—produce unlawfully possessed.

Mr. COOTE: I should like the minister to make an explanation, which would apply to all these sections, as to why these changes are being made.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Perhaps I might take section 42 as an example. The old section read:

If any such grain or root crops, or other produce as aforesaid, are unlawfully in the possession of any person within the intent and meaning of this part, or of any regulations made by the governor in council under this part, any person acting under the authority, either general or special, of the superintendent general, may, with such assistance in that behalf as he thinks necessary, seize and take possession of the same; and he shall deal therewith as the superintendent general, or any officer or person thereunto by him authorized, directs.

The repealed section provided that the superintendent general might order seizure of grain or root crops, or other produce unlawfully in the possession of any person; the amendment extends the provision to include the seizure of cattle or other animals. Our greatest difficulty is in the preventing of trafficking with the Indian where actual possession of his crop is obtained without the knowledge of the agent. In nine cases out of

ten the Indian makes a very improvident deal. It is not our desire to be arbitrary but rather to protect the interests of the Indian himself. We have pretty wide powers in this respect, but once in a while a shrewd individual will make a deal with an Indian and will remove the material from the reserve. We want to be in a position to follow that up and get possession of the Indian's property.

Mr. COOTE: Has not the agent the power to prevent the sale of any goods raised on the reserve?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, but there is some doubt of our control after those goods have been removed from the reserve.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—farms on Indian reserves.

Mr. SMOKE: Does the minister contemplate applying this section to the Six Nations Indians, because they are farmers?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No.

Mr. SMOKE: Why make laws applying to them?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We have not been in the habit of eliminating the Six Nations Indians from the Indian Act. It might as well be said that it is not necessary to apply the educational clause to those Indians, and yet they want that clause applied. This section would allow us to establish farms, mostly in the western provinces. We have one farm at the present time which was organized during the period of the war when there was a need for greater production, and that farm has been kept in operation for the purposes of providing seed. Our difficulty has been that while the accounts are audited by the Auditor General we have to return into the general revenue whatever receipts may be obtained and then ask for a vote from supply for the purpose of carrying on. We are asking that the accounts continue to be audited by the Auditor General but that we be given permission to use the money for the operation of the farm. We accumulated a very considerable amount in reserve and we asked the permission of parliament to use some of it for the purpose of establishing these young people upon farms, but what we are asking now is simply that we be allowed to use this money as a revolving fund for the purpose of carrying on the farm.

Mr. FRASER: How far does the minister expect this section will go? Will he be permitted to go upon any Indian reserve, in