

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

world today there is no more hunting, there is no easy life for them where they work hard for a little while and sit around for the rest of the time. We must make them see that the time has come when they themselves—and I tell them this every time I talk to them—have to get a little spark, show initiative and a desire to want something better.

One day when I was on this reserve last summer we had a woman councillor as well as the chief talk to us for two or three hours. The woman said, "I was up at the teacher's home about an hour ago at dinner time". She said, "My, I wish I could sit down to a meal like the teacher had". These people do not know what a good meal is. I said to her, "Now, look, if we can persuade the government to start a work-and-wages program and start to develop this Indian reserve will you people back us up? Do you want to have good meals? Do you want to have good homes? If you want these things, then you can get them. I am quite sure that the government of this country, no matter what government it is, will help you provided that you show you will help yourselves."

I said a few minutes ago that in some instances these reserves have gone backward. Twenty years ago there were 300 head of cattle on this reserve. Today there are around 100 head. This reserve could carry 2,000 or 3,000 head of cattle. There could be 1,000 to 2,000 acres put into cultivation and, with proper supervision, it would be a success.

If the government would consider a plan of development the first thing they should do is to get a top man, an agriculturist, perhaps a man from the Department of Agriculture, but a man with experience, a man with enthusiasm for a job like this and a man who would be able gradually to bring the Indians into a position where they would want to do something for themselves.

I could spend a lot of time on this question. I feel very strongly about it. I believe that the time for action has arrived. That is why I did not want to wait until next fall, because I think a start should be made this summer. A department of government such as the one the estimates of which we are now discussing or the Department of Agriculture or the two of them in consultation should start a development program on the reserve. This winter the Indians could be put to work fencing the reserve and digging stones out of the ground that is to be ploughed up. Next summer some equipment could be brought in to break the land up to provide the Indians with work. I am satisfied that if this program was led by a competent man it would not be very many

[Mr. Campbell.]

years until this reserve would be self-supporting, the people would have a good standard of living and we would get away from long relief lists such as the one I hold in my hand.

Let me read the relief figures to you: January \$3,068, February \$3,049, March \$3,145, April \$2,962, May \$1,988, June \$1,450, and July \$1,417.

The figures continue in the same way throughout the summer months when these people should have been earning their own living. Instead they did nothing except wait for someone to come around, as some of the church organizations do, with a bundle of clothing. If I visit with them they want me to wire the minister and ask if he will increase their rations. That is not the way of solving this problem. If the minister would get his department working on a scheme such as the one I propose on those reservations which have a potential I think the problem could be solved.

There are other reserves in my constituency that do not have the amount of arable land contained in this particular reserve. For instance while the Saulteaux reserve contains 9,621 acres of land only 900 are arable. In those cases where the reserves do not have sufficient land to provide for the people who live on them consideration should be given to providing them with more land.

Last year I brought to the minister's attention the large number of young people between the ages of 17 and 21 who are leaving the reserves daily to look for work. Because of the fact they do not know how to work and cannot operate the machinery that is involved in most available jobs today they cannot find work and they are fast becoming a generation of bums. I think it is time this government and hon. members of this house recognized that this is a tremendous problem. It is my earnest hope that something will be done soon. I hope a start will be made this summer on a program of development of the reserves to start to bring about changed conditions for these people.

Mr. Hansell: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that we all join with the hon. member who has just spoken in attempting to help the government and the minister bring about a better deal for the Indians.

I rise on a particular point at this time because some of us from the province of Alberta are continuing to receive letters and many protests in respect to the subject matter which was of top drawer importance not so long ago. I know that the minister has already pronounced his delight concerning the decision made by the courts in respect of the