

Some time ago I had the privilege of attending a ceremony on the reservation when a plaque was raised in memory of that great athlete Tom Longboat. He was one of the outstanding distance runners of our time, and was also a full-blooded Indian. Mention has been made of the attainments of some of these men in the world today. I recall that when I was attending high school in Brantford many of the children came there from the reservation. One of my best friends at that time was an Indian from the reservation who attended the same class as I did. The Indian and white children mixed together and got along quite well.

There has been some mention of the different rulings that are in force on the reservations today. We have the elected council of the Six Nations reservation, and we also have the hereditary chiefs, who have their own council meeting in another part of the reservation other than Oshweken. I feel that some way should be found of bringing these two factions together so that the Indians will present a united front when consideration is given to their problems. I was quite surprised when I learned some time ago that these people were not entitled to vote in federal elections. There is no doubt that they are very well informed on matters pertaining to federal affairs. I feel it is only proper that since they have the right to vote in provincial elections they should have the right to vote in federal elections.

A large number of these Indians from the reservation work in the factories in the city of Brantford. They are good workers, and highly skilled. A short time ago some services were extended from the city of Brantford to the reservation, but they were greeted with some suspicion. As has been mentioned before, the Indians appear to look with some suspicion upon anything that the white man or the elected representatives try to inaugurate on the reservation. It is only by being very careful and by showing these people that we are trying to help them that we are going to overcome the obstacles that have been met in the past. Some two or three years ago the Indians on this reservation presented a well-planned play which they put on in order to preserve their customs from years gone by. I would recommend to anyone who is in the district that he see this cultural demonstration, as one might call it, because it is well worth while.

I have nothing more to say, Mr. Speaker, other than that during the time I was reeve of Brantford township and warden of the county of Brant I met many of the Indians on the reservation because it adjoined our township. Our two councils co-operated very

well and we found the members of the Indian council very friendly. I feel that these people should have a vote in federal elections, the same as other people in this province do.

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** I listened with interest to the reminiscences of the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Gardiner) about the days when he was a student at the normal school at Regina. I began to wonder whether or not he might have attended that august institution along with my mother. I realize that has not much to do with the bill before us, and I shall have to pursue that subject with the hon. member outside of the house.

I should like to say a few words in support of the bill that has been placed before us for consideration by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). Reference has been made to the fact that certain Indians now have the right to vote under the present elections act, that is to say, those who have served in the armed forces. I have a very vivid recollection of a conversation I had in this connection with a young Indian man in one of the villages along the west coast of Vancouver island a few years ago while I was waiting for a plane or a boat. He was a veteran of world war II and was entitled to cast a vote in the federal election which was then shortly to be held. We got into quite a discussion. He was aware of the fact that I was a candidate for election in that particular campaign because I held a meeting in the village the night before. He raised the question with me that while he realized that he had the right to vote he was not going to exercise that right as long as his fellows of the same racial origin were denied that right. That little incident has, as I say, remained very vivid in my memory ever since then, and it is one of the reasons why I am happy to support the proposal that has been placed before the house by the hon. member for Skeena.

Another reason why I am happy to rise in support of the bill is that I know that, as far as the Indians of British Columbia are concerned, as they have expressed their views through the native brotherhood of British Columbia, they are desirous of seeing enacted into legislation the proposal that is put forward in this bill.

Reference has been made to the concern which has been expressed by Indian people at various times in various parts of the country with respect to the question of preserving some of the rights they have by virtue of having been the original inhabitants of this country. I have read the terms of the hon. member's bill rather carefully and certainly I am satisfied that it has written into