

they have always felt it their duty to be so. Their pride always lay in being mothers, daughters or sisters of men who were the support and the protection of the Indian encampment during the troublous times that were. Certain rules of etiquette applicable in public but not in private life have been instrumental in causing misrepresentations to be made as regards their status in Indian life. As a general rule their's is not an unhappy nor menial life.

On many of the reserves, especially down East, the women formed Red Cross Societies and Patriotic Leagues. They carried on the work with energy and efficiency and were successful in the accomplishment of excellent results. They made bandages, provided various comforts for the soldiers, knitted socks, sweaters, mufflers, and also raised money for patriotic purposes. In making of baskets and in beadwork the Indian women found a novel and very successful means of securing funds for war needs by the sale of these wares.

I have now finished with the necessary statistics. They are as a rule an uninteresting necessity. The Government took a great deal of pains to procure exhaustive information in this matter in order that we may receive that credit which is due for the part our men took in the great war. The Indian nation has proved that at a crisis it can be counted upon to arise and do deeds of men in common with the white population.

They are wards of the Government; they do not vote and are therefore children in the eyes of the law, but it was not the part of children they played when need arose.

Now what is the significance of it all? The white people have always been well disposed towards us; they have always shown an interest, a friendliness and even respect, and these we appreciate. We are part and parcel of their adopted country. They have always felt a certain amount of responsibility for us, but for the first time they realize that we have made progress, that some of us have outgrown the status of children, that we have that in us which if developed and cultivated will be of value to the country, and that a time is coming, or has come, when many that have advanced so far are, if so they desire, to be permitted to take upon themselves the full responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. Already since the ending of the war 227 Indians with their families have passed out of wardship and are now Canadian citizens in every sense of the word. "I think," said the Minister of Interior, "it would be in the interest of good administration if the provisions with regard to enfranchisement were further extended so as to enable the Department to enfranchise individual Indians or a band of Indians without the necessity of obtaining their consent thereto in cases where it is found upon investigation that the continuance of wardship was no longer in the interest of the public or the Indians."

Side by side with this is the question of Compulsory Education. The Minister of the Interior included this in his efforts to modify the Indian Act. Every Indian child is to be under the same kind of legislation as white children are under in reference to school attendance. He has to attend whether he wants to or not. Such a policy I myself have always advocated, and it would give me a great deal of pleasure were it to operate, for it would incidentally necessitate the Government building more