

matter have led me to a slightly different conclusion, but my judgment may be slightly coloured by my interest in fur. I would say that 50 per cent of all the Indians in Canada are more or less engaged in the fur industry. I would say that possibly 25 per cent or a little more are interested in agriculture and ranching and such pursuits.

Mr. MACNICOL: How much in fishing?

The WITNESS: I would say about 15 per cent of the Indian population in Canada is interested in fishing, 7 per cent are interested in forestry and lumbering, and I have left 3 per cent in the question as it was asked in light and heavy industries. Now, I think it should be understood that you cannot have any of these activities put in one pigeonhole because the Indian who is basically engaged or primarily engaged on the trap lines is also a fisherman. He has to be. Similarly, a man who in the summertime engages in one or other of the forms of agriculture in the wintertime goes out on a trap line. He may even go on to the lakes, and they interlock and overlap, and it is very difficult for that reason to say that a certain percentage are in fur and a certain percentage are in fish or forestry or agriculture.

I think we have to put first things first. After all, what we are interested in and what we are paid to do, shall I say, is to administer the resources as we have them on Indian reserves and as we can acquire them outside of Indian reserves so that we can put food in the mouths of the Indians and shelters over their heads and clothing on their backs. Those are the first things and they must be put first. There is not very much room for art and the finer phases of life in the life of a man who has not enough to eat. The first duty of our department is to see that the 118,000 Indians in Canada have enough to eat and enough to wear and have a happy future under greatly improved conditions from the resources of Canada placed at our disposal on their behalf. We have for the Indians 5,500,000 acres of land in Canada. Some of it is the best land in Canada, most of it is inferior land; much of it is in the wilds. It is a place to live, and that is about all you can say as far as the reserve is concerned. The Indian reserves was not designed to support the Indian community; it was designed as a place for the Indian to live, and we find that they have to go far beyond the confines of their reserves to make a living. There are important natural resources in the five basic types mentioned. I say with regard to mining that very few Indians are suited for mining work, or engaged in it.

Mr. MACNICOL: Have they anything to do with mining on the reserves? Are the minerals on the reserves the property of the government?

The WITNESS: Only the precious metals; all other minerals belong to the Indians who own the land, or they belong to Canada in trust for the Indians. We have looked for oil on the Sarcee and Blood Indian reserves, and I hope we find oil on the Stony reserve which is of little value for any other purpose. The royalties from oil would accrue to the benefit of the Indian band, and that is one hope that they some day hope to realize.

The CHAIRMAN: Would those royalties accrue to the benefit of the Indian band of that particular reserve or for Indians generally?

The WITNESS: For the benefit of that particular reserve. Incidentally, I had the satisfaction of signing up an oil lease on the Stony reserve where the promoter advised me he was never as certain of anything in his experience as he was that he had oil, and he was going to send me a ticket for the blow-in. I am looking forward to that.

Yesterday we had an application from a large oil firm on the Blood Indian reserve. They are only searching for oil there. The point I want to make now is that on 5,500,000 acres of Indian lands in Canada we have never found any mineral, we have not a working mine, and we have not found oil. We believe those things are there and a search is going on and we may eventually find them.