

Mr. BENNETT: It is because I doubt whether or not that is wide enough that I brought up this matter, and I understand it was for that reason that the section was put in its present form in 1924. In that year subsection 2 of section 4 was added to meet some doubts which arose over the very point the minister has just brought up.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): What is the object of the change; why transfer the control of the Eskimos from the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is the Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior; both the deputy minister and the minister have their offices in Ottawa, and it seems to me that the Department of Indian Affairs is the proper branch to have control of the Eskimos.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The Eskimo question covers a much wider territory than is covered by the Indian question. The Eskimos are all along Coronation gulf and are over in Baffin land, in which country there are no Indians; the Eskimos are found also away to the north on Melville island. This embraces a completely northern territory, in which we have the officers of the Northwest Territories council and of the mounted police, and up to the present time we have found it much more convenient and advantageous to handle the matter in this way. The officers of the Northwest Territories branch and of the mounted police at present are looking after the Eskimos. The officers of the Indian department, while they go down the Mackenzie river, only come in contact with the Eskimos who come to Aklavik on the most westerly side of Coronation gulf. At the present moment all the administration given to the Eskimos is given by the officers of the Northwest Territories and by the mounted police who work very closely together.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Are any schools being conducted for the education of the Eskimos?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes.

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): For instance, in the duties of the franchise?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I think my hon. friend is unduly alarmed about this franchise business. That is a matter which can be discussed thoroughly when the bill is introduced to add this territory to the Yukon.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Did I understand the minister to say that schools similar to the Indian schools will be inaugurated for the Eskimos.

[Mr. Cannon.]

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The Anglican church has been working among the Eskimos for many years.

Mr. ADSHEAD: That is a private work.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes. The hon. member will understand that this is a very difficult problem with the tribes moving about as they do, but we have given some thought to the establishment of permanent schools such as we have now for Indian education.

Mr. ADSHEAD: With regard to the Indian schools; what class of teacher is provided, and is any religious instruction given?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Undoubtedly there is religious instruction given in the schools. About 51 per cent of the work carried on by the boarding schools is in the hands of the Oblate order, and the sisters of that order do the teaching. Anglican schools are conducted in the same manner, except that the men and women are hired by the church. The Presbyterian, and formerly the Methodist schools were carried on in the same way, and naturally there is religious instruction given. The curriculum is governed by the provincial laws.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Do I understand that public funds are being expended for religious instruction?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No, I would not say that public funds are being voted for that purpose. The grants are made on the understanding that the schools will be conducted according to the provincial laws, but it would be absolutely wrong to say that no religious instruction is given.

Mr. ADSHEAD: Public grants are made for that purpose.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): They receive the grants for the purpose of educating the children, yes.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the Solicitor General (Mr. Cannon) has put his finger upon the only contention which we are making at the moment in connection with this matter. He has stated that the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is not a minister responsible to this house nor to the country, he is a deputy minister who is a paid official of the crown. A minister has responsibility to one or either of the houses of parliament, and inasmuch as in 1924 it was thought desirable that a responsible minister should be charged with the obligation of administering the affairs of the Eskimos, it would seem to