

remove the obsolete sections and to bring the rest of the Act up to date. Briefly, the obsolete sections related to the following:

1. Homesteads. No homestead entry was ever permitted in the present area of the Northwest Territories, and the practice of allowing homestead entry in Yukon Territory was discontinued some years ago.

2. School lands and Hudson Bay lands. These sections have to do with provincial lands.

3. Public competition for the right to cut timber on berths. This practice was discontinued many years ago, and the present practice is to issue a permit and charge dues for the timber cut.

4. The issue of patents, the production of documents and other minor matters. These sections are now unnecessary.

In addition, some of the provisions relating to correction of grants are included in the Public Lands Grants bill, which has just been read the second time.

The general intent of the remaining sections of the Dominion Lands Act is retained in the bill and, for the purpose of comparison, many of these sections are printed in the explanatory notes.

The bill would apply to all lands in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory under the control of the Department of Resources and Development. The application of the present Act to the Yukon Territory is through section 4 (2), which gives the Governor in Council power to make certain regulations in regard to that area. This bill would remove that limitation.

Section 25 makes some changes in the language of the Dominion Water Power Act, and eliminates unnecessary provisions in that Act.

In addition to repealing the Dominion Lands Act the bill also repeals the Irrigation Act and the Reclamation Act. The Irrigation Act now applies only to the district of Keewatin, where it has no practical application. The Reclamation Act applied only to the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and these provinces are no longer under its jurisdiction.

Honourable senators, I may say that the subject matter of this bill is closely related to that of the one which has just been considered. Should honourable senators see fit to give it second reading tonight, I shall move that it be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce. The same officials from the department will likely appear on both bills.

Hon. T. A. Crerar: Honourable senators, I have no objection to the bill receiving second reading. There is, however, one point on which more information should be given when it is considered in committee.

I observe by section 5 of the bill that no territorial lands suitable for muskrat farming shall be sold. This is a wise provision, but it may be well to get information on the reservation of other lands, which might be suitable for maintaining the native population of these areas.

When the land and timber resources of the western provinces were transferred to the provinces, the question of the welfare of the Indians living in the northern parts of these provinces was overlooked. Roughly speaking, a third of the Indians of Canada live in the northern sections of not only the western provinces, but of Ontario and Quebec. Their only means of livelihood is trapping. After the transfer of the resources of this northern area, they became subject to provincial government regulations, and as a result they have become an increasing charge on the federal government. It is quite possible, and indeed not difficult, as has been clearly demonstrated, to restore the fur-bearing population that was dissipated because of the lack of proper conservation methods in our northern areas. As the fur animals became fewer the Indians became more and more dependent on hand-outs from the federal government.

When the bill is before the committee, I propose to raise this question with a view to ascertaining whether proper provision is to be made in the future for the Indian and Eskimo population. I have no hesitation in saying that these people, being natives in particular areas, have first claim on the right to a livelihood from them. I have no doubt that we shall get further information upon the point when the bill is considered in committee.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read a second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, I move that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The motion was agreed to.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Senate resumed from Thursday, February 23, the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General's Speech at the opening of the session, and the motion of Hon. Mr. Golding for an Address in reply thereto.