

Mr. COLAS: Well, they live on the piece of land on which they were living in 1945.

Mr. WRATTEN: How do they separate one neighbour's property from another?

Mr. COLAS: Through tradition. I believe they put a fence up. You have a ticket of location. Is that right, Mr. Gabriel?

Mr. GABRIEL: No. There is a large fence around the Gabriel lands—around the one group of Gabriels. We have only one title to the land.

Mr. SMALL: Is this not a case of jurisdiction between the dominion and provincial authorities?

Mr. COLAS: No; it is clearly federal jurisdiction. As long as there are Indians living on the reserve, that land belongs to the federal crown, and the perpetual use of that land is in the hands of the tribe. But, the minute the last Indian leaves the reserve it reverts into the hands of the provincial crown. The status of the land is attached to the Indian but, the minute he leaves, the federal jurisdiction disappears.

Mr. WRATTEN: Are there any people on this common land?

Mr. COLAS: No. As the name implies, common lands were used by the tribe to raise their cattle, a place to go hunting, and as a play area. They would picnic and enjoy themselves there. In other words, it was a playground for the whole tribe.

Mr. WRATTEN: Has there has been any dispossession of their lands lately?

Mr. COLAS: Yes. I believe it has been taken by the municipality of Oka which, in turn, has rented it to a private club for the purpose of creating a golf course.

Mr. WRATTEN: I am talking about lands upon which the Indians are living.

Mr. COLAS: No, because it belongs to the federal crown.

Mr. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, I am not too sure of the geography of this location. I understand from the evidence that the property involved is about three leagues by three and a half leagues in size, and that a league is about nine miles. That would make this property thirty miles long and thirty miles wide, which is quite a large area of property. Could I ask two or three questions about that?

Is all this property located in Canada?

Mr. COLAS: Oh, yes.

Mr. THOMAS: How far would this property be located from the city of Montreal?

Mr. COLAS: How many miles would it be from Montreal, Mr. Gabriel?

Mr. GABRIEL: About twenty miles.

Mr. THOMAS: Would the land be of great commercial value for subdividing?

Mr. COLAS: Well, all of it is used by the municipality of Oka. It has been completely taken over by private interests. Do not believe that this reserve is now thirty miles long and thirty miles wide; there is only a very small portion of that which remains.

Mr. THOMAS: Do the Indians receive any income from it?

Mr. COLAS: No, none whatsoever. It has been sold right out by the Sul-picien order to private interests, and it does not bring any income to the Indian.

Mr. WRATTEN: How much land do they have now?

Mr. COLAS: I do not know. The government has not told us.