

Mr. GIBSON: The band council has the right to assess stumpage charges against the personal operator?

Mr. MACKAY: Permits are issued setting out conditions under which the Indians are permitted—

Mr. GIBSON: —to log their own timber?

Mr. HATFIELD: What can be done in the case of a person outside the reserve who is contracting with Indians for the supply of baskets, the price at which they are contracted for being below the market price for these baskets, where the Indians take some money during the summer and for that money they agree to sell the baskets at a price away below the market price? Is there anything to guard against that?

Mr. MACKAY: Yes, Mr. Hatfield, a transaction of that kind is illegal. The lease of Indian lands must be approved by the minister and usually an application to lease the land comes from an Indian or a group of Indians to the local agent and it is referred to the band council and the council either approves or disapproves of the lease to this party. If they approve then it is sent on to the department and processed in the usual channels and eventually approved by the minister.

Mr. HATFIELD: This is not land I am talking about, it is baskets manufactured on the reserves.

Mr. MACKAY: Oh, I understood you to say, Mr. Hatfield, that people went on the reserves and used the land for pasture. I see, it is in connection with the selling of baskets made by the Indians. Well, of course, an Indian is a free agent the same as the rest of us; he can make any deal he likes with respect to his products. We have no control over that. We would like to encourage him to take advice in regard to the sale of his products from the agent.

Mr. HATFIELD: In that case should not the agent interfere and say these baskets are worth more money? The Indians sell the baskets for the reason that they want the money then, and the baskets are made during the summer but are not delivered until the fall.

Mr. MURRAY: This section does not deal with baskets, it is dealing with potatoes, hay, grain, agricultural produce.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: You would have to insert a statutory authority in the Act which is not here now so that the agent could interfere in the trading between an Indian and a non-Indian. That would be so contrary to the present trend if you want to pursue it—

Mr. HATFIELD: I think the agents should take some interest in what the Indians do on a reserve. They know they are selling baskets too cheap in order to get money to take them through the summer. Those baskets are not saleable in the summer months, they are saleable only in the fall months for picking potatoes.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: Do you suggest that we take over the sale of the baskets for these people?

Mr. HATFIELD: Yes.

Mr. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I have in mind some Indians who raise grain and alfalfa quite extensively. Has it been necessary up to now to have the approval of the superintendent for the sale of that alfalfa?

Mr. MACKAY: Yes.

Mr. WOOD: This is not changed then?

Mr. MACKAY: It will.

Mr. WOOD: Make it more difficult?