

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

was bought for them a few years ago. It is a housing project and last year before the committee it was requested by the delegates from the Abitibi Dominion band. I wonder whether the hon. lady could tell the house a little later if this housing project for the Abitibi Dominion band will be carried out.

As is the usual procedure, of course, these houses will have to be supplied with modern heating equipment. It was suggested last year before the committee that the cost of the water works and sewage disposal system could be paid out of the band fund. Although this band is not a very rich one, nevertheless its members are willing to co-operate and do their share.

There are various other housing projects that are also urgently needed by other bands in the large territory included in my riding. I will give the names of the bands quickly. I am referring to the Mistassini band, the Waswanipi band, the Eastmain band and the bands at Rupert House Obedjiwan and also Manowan. As far as Obedjiwan and Manowan are concerned, housing projects have already been started there.

Of course, all these different projects throughout Canada cannot be carried out simultaneously. However, considering the amount of money that is made available from year to year I know that a big effort has been made toward accomplishing these different projects in recent years and the department and the minister particularly are to be congratulated. Taking into account the amount of money made available, I think a very good job has been done.

So far as education is concerned, more has been done in recent years than was the case some years ago. I think that education has to come first and that it will certainly help integration with the white communities across Canada.

I was glad to read a statement by the hon. lady the other day that the only solution to the Indian problem across Canada is integration as soon as possible. I really believe that is so. The Indians in my area have only been in touch with the white man for a few years. We have just a few reserves and most of the Indians there have only come in contact with civilization recently. I believe that with education available to their children the possibility will be greater of integrating them with the white population.

I should like to relate something that was said to me by Mr. Kistabish of La Sarre, Quebec, a well known and respected Indian. He said to me: "Your education program for Indians is quite all right but what happens?

We send our children to the school and when they come back from school they are not educated enough to work for the white man and they are no good as Indians any more because they do not know how to trap. They no longer know how to operate in the bush." These young Indians go to school and graduate about the age of 16. They are not sufficiently educated to be able to compete with the white children of their own age in obtaining employment. On the other hand they are no longer able to follow the pursuits of their Indian fathers in fishing, trapping and so on. They have lost their natural skills during the years they have attended school.

I believe, therefore, that the employment officers who are doing their best to find jobs for these young Indians should take into consideration their lack of education and should try to find employment for them as soon as possible so that they will not become discouraged and return to the reserve.

In so far as income and relief are concerned, I should like to make a few suggestions. Since as I have just explained the Indian does not have sufficient education to compete with the skilled worker, the only kind of employment open to him in my area is often irregular and of a temporary nature. For instance, in the Abitibi district an Indian can find employment as a hunting and fishing guide for 15 to 30 days a year. He might find a job as a helper for a prospector or staking mining claims, depending upon whether there is any mining activity in the area. He can sometimes find a job as a lumberman for three or four months during the wintertime. This illustrates the problem. The older generation, of course, has even more difficulty in finding employment. It is hoped that the younger generation that is being educated now will have a better chance to compete. When these children come out of school we should be careful to make sure they do not become discouraged because, as I have said, they are not sufficiently well educated to compete with the white children.

In so far as the relief system is concerned, it was suggested that the system could be improved. It was suggested also to the committee last year that the amount of relief payments could be increased. This is a rather difficult problem in certain cases, as the minister well knows, because many people who have been away from the reserve for some time come back to live on the reserve when they are unemployed.

Before I resume my seat, I should like to mention a few other points that were presented to the committee last year. I do not