

Indian Act
INDIAN ACT

CONSOLIDATION AND CLARIFICATION—BAND
FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES, ETC.

happen on satisfactory evidence of insanity being given. Perhaps the minister may remember the incident. It took place only a few days ago in the house here. My memory is so bad that I cannot remember just what it was. In any event, the authorities have not seen fit to specify in any way the kind of evidence upon which you might act?

Mr. Claxton: No.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): They have left it the same?

Mr. Claxton: Any evidence that may be relevant.

Section agreed to.

Sections 167 to 191 inclusive agreed to.

On section 192—*Substitution of new punishment where illegal punishment set aside.*

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I just blew my nose, Mr. Chairman, and lost twelve sections. Is this the new appeal board that has been created?

Mr. Claxton: Yes, sir.

Section agreed to.

Sections 193 to 251 inclusive agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. Claxton moved the third reading of the bill.

He said: I should like to express to hon. members what I think everyone must feel, and that is appreciation of their co-operation. I should also like to acknowledge the fair and appreciative remarks made by hon. members with regard to the officers of the services, and I am sure they will include the officers of the Department of Justice also who, as I think all hon. members will agree, have done a really great work in preparing this monumental piece of legislation. I shall be glad indeed to convey to these officers the messages of appreciation that hon. members have voiced, and to add my own on this occasion as on others. In addition, I should once more like to thank the members of the committee, and particularly the chairman, for the excellent job they did in preparing the bill for our consideration which, I think, was probably record-breaking in view of the fact that we have been one hour and five minutes on the 251 sections.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend, consolidate and clarify the Indian Act, and to provide, *inter alia*, for band funds and expenditures therefrom, and for other appropriations in case of deficiency or lack of band funds.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Dion in the chair.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Low: Is the minister not going to make a statement?

Mr. Harris: The only statement that I think I should make at this stage is to say that I think all parties in the house agree that it is expedient to introduce a bill to amend, consolidate and clarify the Indian Act.

Mr. Harkness: There is a great desire on the part of the Indians and many other people interested in them to have this act come out so that people can take a look at it, and so forth. In view of that fact, I should not like to delay the appearance of the act by making any remarks on the matter this afternoon, except to say that I am extremely glad that after this long period of time the act is finally going to come out and get consideration here.

Mr. Blackmore: I have no desire to delay the passage of the resolution but I hope that the bill, when it comes down, will make some provision for two or three things which I consider to be paramount essentials in any attempt to deal with the Indian situation as it exists in Canada today.

In the first place there should be an Indian claims commission. If the bill does not provide for such a claims commission then it will be defective to that extent. In various parts of Canada Indians have experienced some of the grossest injustices by reason of the fact that conditions since the signing of their treaty have changed so materially that they do not at all resemble what they were like in former days. May I illustrate. Suppose an Indian tribe had free access to fishing on a great river which teemed with fish at the time they signed their treaty. At that time it was recognized that they would have free access to the fish in that river and no particular stipulation was made concerning their having perpetual access to the fish; but meanwhile the fishing at the mouth of that river has been commercialized, as it has within the Fraser river. The result is the