

10. Parliamentary Inquiries.

Since 1867 there have been only two parliamentary inquiries into Indian affairs, each of which was very narrow in scope. One, in 1920, dealt with Bill No. 14, which contained amendments with regard to the adoption of the elective system of chiefs and councillors; the other, in 1926, was a joint committee which inquired into the claims of the allied Indian tribes of British Columbia.

Your committee recommends that the rules of the House of Commons be amended to provide for the appointment of a Select Standing Committee on Indian Affairs.

In the opinion of your committee such a committee will be necessary for a few sessions at least to consider and report upon the working out of any Indian Act and regulations framed thereunder.

Your committee considers a lapse of more than 20 years without parliamentary investigation too long to permit of that good administration of a branch or department of government which deals with such human problems as Indian Affairs.

11. Advisory Boards.

Your committee recommends that the government consider the advisability of appointing such advisory boards or committees as, from time to time, are deemed necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of the Indian Act.

12. Other Cognate Matters.

There are certain aspects of Indian affairs administration which, perforce, require co-operation between the dominion and provincial officials, to bring about the future economic assimilation of Indians into the body politic of Canada.

Your committee, therefore, recommends that the government consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of the next Dominion-

Provincial Conference, for consideration by the provinces, the following matters:

- (a) Education,
- (b) Health and social services;
- (c) Fur conservation and development and Indian traplines;
- (d) Provincial fish and game laws;
- (e) Provincial liquor legislation;
- (f) Validity of marriage solemnized by Indians, on Indian reserves, according to tribal custom and ritual.

Your committee realizes that the matters above enumerated are matters which, normally, are dealt with under provincial legislative powers. However, it should be possible to arrive at such financial arrangements between the Dominion and provincial governments as might bring Indians within the scope of such provincial legislation, in order that there be mutual and co-ordinated assistance to facilitate the Indians to become, in every respect, citizens proud of Canada and of the province in which they reside.

13. Appendix.

The Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence taken before your committee are tabled herewith.

14. Conclusion.

As this is the final report of your committee, it is now considered fitting and timely to express due appreciation to all those individuals and organizations which, by their appearance before your committee, or by carefully prepared written briefs, rendered valuable help to the deliberations of your committee.

Officials from several departments of government rendered particularly valuable service, as did Mr. Norman E. Lickers, Barrister, who acted as counsel for the committee and as liaison officer for the Indians of Canada.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. H. TAYLOR,
Chairman, Senate Section.