

to know that according to the Dominion statistics 1938/40 only 13 per cent of the province of Manitoba attained grade VIII. It was higher in British Columbia, I think 39 per cent—that is, white children.

Mr. CASE: Might I proceed now, Mr. Chairman? I understood Mr. MacKay to say that there are three agencies vacant in British Columbia and one school inspector required, a total of four. His recommendation was that these vacancies should be filled immediately, and that they require seven field men. He also suggested there should be a field officer to assist the agent. Both Mr. Hoey and Mr. MacKay complained of the six months' retirement leave interval before a successor is appointed. Mr. Hoey recommended that appointments be made three months in advance of retirement. Mr. Hoey also recommended there should be an agent at large for British Columbia and the last point I have noted here is that he recommends that there should be an examiner of inheritance similar to the United States.

The WITNESS: Mr. Case, I should like to say that the seven would include, of course, an employee who would assist the Indian agent because in each case he should be under the control and supervision of the agent and under his direction.

*By Mr. Case:*

Q. In other words, if you had the four vacancies filled you would require only three more field men?—A. No, as to the four vacancies that exist at the moment the establishment already provides for those positions, but it is necessary to increase the establishment to provide for seven new field positions.

Q. I have one further question. Have recommendations been made to the department previous to the setting-up of this committee that these things should be done?—A. I have on a number of occasions drawn to the attention of the department the need especially for field personnel in British Columbia.

Q. But there has been no action taken?—A. I presume the reason for it is that the war was on and very few new positions were being established.

Mr. CASE: Those are the only items I have marked as to which I thought we should keep the recommendations before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Case.

*By Mr. Bryce:*

Q. I should like to ask Major MacKay what he thinks about the school problem. Most of them are residential schools in British Columbia. You take pupils in there when they are eight years of age and you keep them there until they are sixteen years of age? Is that not the case?—A. They enter school at seven.

Q. And you keep them until they are fifteen or sixteen?—A. Sixteen.

Q. During that time you have taught them the way the white man lives. They speak English. They do not speak their native language very much. They are only home for maybe five or six weeks holidays during that time?—A. They are home as a rule for the usual period school is not in session.

Q. When they come to that age they are let go back home. There is no provision for their education to be carried on after that. They go back home and they have an inferiority complex. They are ridiculed. You who have studied the Indians know what a terrible weapon ridicule is among the Indians. You know how they ridicule those Indians who adopt the white man's ways. Do you not think if our residential schools were turned into vocational schools and you re-established the day school on the reserve it would give better results?—A. Of course, vocational training does form a very large division of the instruction given in the residential schools. The residential schools in British Columbia