

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

there are probably 200 licensed camps in that area and I do not know of any Indian band that has had more social contacts and social contacts with our white race of a very pleasant nature than the band there.

You know how guides, in particular, fraternize with those whom they are guiding and how friendly they become. The guests we have are mostly people from the United States. Great numbers of them are from the very highest business and other levels with experience in so many walks of life. This has been a wonderful thing for all people in our area. These people from the United States like the Indians immensely and treat them in an exceptionally fine manner. However, the school in that area does not provide practical training. These Indians are not going to be able to follow up this very desirable social inclination they have by getting employment in technical and other good occupations if they are not given something more than reading and writing at the day school. I would be sorry if these families had to be separated in order that some children might attend the residential schools to attain practical vocational skills.

I am very delighted with the progress that has been made during the last 12 months on the economic opportunity side. I know that this has been the result of a long term program given a push under the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate and the former minister Mr. Harris as well as the present minister. I know the present minister will agree that it is good to see some progress here. It is difficult to get the trained staff necessary to supervise some of these industrial aspects. I know that at Lac Seul in the last couple of years we have had timber cutting supervised right on the reserve during the winter months. This has provided employment for as many as 60 Indians, and instead of working for outsiders they are actually operating on the reserve under their supervisor. It has been a very successful operation. As long as it proves successful and economic, as I believe it has, I am very glad to find that the department decided not to put the area out for competitive bids to outside white contractors who would simply be employers of the Indians on these Indian lands.

I know that there are now being made available in areas like this department financed saw mills which are provided out of such appropriations as we are voting here today. I should like a little more information as to the utilization of the revolving loan fund. Within the past 12 months what volume of lending has been done from this fund which, I believe, amounts basically to a half million

dollars? We understand the way in which revolving fund loans are made and payments are expected.

I should like to refer now to commercial fishing. I commend the minister and her officials upon the fact that during the past 12 months there has been a considerable increase in filleting machinery that has been made available, provision for ice and so on. I hope this will mean that from now on the waste products in connection with the fish catch will be left in the north and the Indian will not have to pay the high costs of air transportation of these non-edible products down to the railhead. This should result in a higher return for the fish catch. I observe that some progress is being made by the department. I know the department is handicapped in some areas because the Indians must get a provincial licence in order to obtain an adequate fishing area which will support the number of people in the band who have few other sources of livelihood but fishing. Some progress has been made with the provincial government, and I want to give credit where credit is due.

I think that last year's development in Ontario which resulted in giving the collection of wild rice exclusively to the Indians was a very desirable step. I know that in connection with fishing the department is attempting to make sure that the fish is not going to be sold by the Indian, through ignorance or otherwise, at less than the best market price. I believe a tender system is operated in this respect. In so far as the wild rice crop is concerned, which is an extremely valuable one, I wonder if the department is exercising some kind of check on the actual price being received by the Indians for this crop. We know that the consumer prices that prevailed before this became an Indian preserve were fairly high, and even on a wholesale selling basis before it found its ultimate market in Chicago.

I have already had correspondence with the minister which indicates that the provincial department of forestry is happy to recruit Indians for its summer junior forest ranger program. This is down in black and white. The department believes the Indians are really superior for this type of work which requires that they be mobile. They must jump from one forest fire threat to another, and so on. The provincial department recognizes that for a certain period of time the Indian finds himself able to live longer without permanent accommodation and without boredom than some of our young white people are able to do. I think this type of program should be extended for Indians' employment.