

*Canada Lands Surveys Act*

are used to the fact that you put a wall or a fence around your property and say, "That is mine", but they are not.

I am aware of various groups which have been formed to put forward the rights of the native people. These rights have not been accepted under our law yet, although an agreement has been made. This problem of human relations between the mass of the Canadian people and these few thousand Indians up there is ignored in this legislation. This is looked on as purely a question of improving the survey system, and purely a question of getting the machinery to act efficiently.

We forget the lessons of our history when we move in and attack the culture of people. For example, when we moved in and attacked the culture of the Metis who lived along the Red River and the Assiniboine in Manitoba, the result was a rebellion in 1870. Every time you monkey around with a person's land or his culture, you get into trouble. I do not see any awareness in this legislation that there is any question of asking permission before you walk across a man's land to survey. It just provides that you have the right and the man will be punished if he interferes in any way. The only answer to this problem is for us in this parliament to trust the humanitarianism and the fair play of the minister and the commissioners of these various territories. That is all we have to protect us.

Under this legislation we are giving a tremendous dictatorial power, to public servants in most cases, but let us call them surveyors, and taking it away from the minister. It has to be done with some sort of a survey system. Referring to the question of commissioners, I would think that has to be supported. It has always struck me as very wrong that a minister in Ottawa has this power over 60 per cent of the land mass of this country. The power includes the bottom of the sea, the Arctic, the Pacific and the Atlantic half way across the ocean, which is probably three or four times more area than we have in the land mass. All this tremendous power under our legislation is now concentrated in the cabinet ministers here in Ottawa.

The phrase "and the commissioner" has been added over and over again in this legislation. The commissioner is the person who is responsible to Ottawa. He heads up the Yukon government and the commission which heads up the Northwest Territories. Some day I expect we will have two territories to make up the present Northwest Territories. At least we have turned over the power a little closer to the people, because the commissioners in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories have to share some of their decision-making powers with the elected council. Sharing the power which is now held by the minister or other Privy Councillors over the north, and widening that out to include the commissioners of the two territories, is an improvement. That improvement has to be supported.

The final point I should like to make is on the survey. The parliamentary secretary is quite correct when he said you cannot use the American style survey that we used in opening up the Canadian west. Because our west is reasonably rolling

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.)

and level, it was very easy for us to adopt the survey of Ohio or Pennsylvania and bring it into western Canada.

If you look at the history of surveys in western Canada, there were five different stages of surveys. Essentially they were very unique and useful to us because every mile north and south there is a road, and every two miles east and west there is a road.

As I have said in this House on many occasions, the province of Saskatchewan, where only 4 per cent of the people of Canada live, has 36 per cent to 40 per cent of the roads, and that is why we get so sensitive when somebody comes along and wants to apply a new survey system. We spent the last 100 years, or at least the last 70 years, paying for these roads on one system of survey, and then the government comes along, carrying out the orders of a few junior grade public servants, and applies a new system of survey measurements called the metric system, for no good reason. We are not selling land around the world, and yet we are asked under the laws of the province of Saskatchewan to survey in a foreign system, which means millions of dollars of cost to governments at the municipal and provincial levels. It also means hundreds of millions of dollars of cost to individuals living in towns, cities, as well as in the country. This is rammed through even on the docile, domesticated Canadians who live in the south, and they do not like it. We can take it because at least we can read and know we are being gored.

When we go into a survey system in the north, it is not just a question of adaptation to some other survey system from a country like the United States or what we have in Ontario, the maritimes or Quebec. This is a survey system which has to be developed. It is designed for the rivers of the north and is designed for the mountains of the north. Imagine how silly it would be putting in a square system where you have a valley with the tablelands on each side of that river running a few miles out, and then into mountains which go up 8,000, 10,000 or 12,000 feet. In the early days of the French colony everybody lived along the rivers and the long lines served them very well. This is not the system which will work in the north.

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In the north it is essentially a question of getting a survey system that is simple to operate on a resource based economy. Whether we like it or not, with some of our current, temporary, non-growth philosophies, the north is a tremendous resource area. To picture it clearly, just think of the resources at the bottom of the sea. Fish and other things live down there. A survey system designed for a settled area, along a river or in a mountainous river area such as there is in the northwest or the tundra of the central Arctic, would not apply to the bottom of the sea. It should be done on a grid system based on the natural curvature of the earth, such as is already in place in the Territorial Lands Act. That is how oil and gas permits are assessed and granted.

The grid system would be easy to locate because it could be numbered in such a way that to get a certain map, by a simple formula of taking the first number and second number—I am