

Indian Act

club has been organized in our little town. The corporal of the mounted police has offered his services to give lessons and supervise this club. I understand that among the membership are many Indian youths.

This is something that can be done by local effort; and you can build up the spirit that desires to see the Indian brought up to the standard or integrated into the white man's way of life. I think you can talk about legislation from now till doomsday but you cannot legislate these things for the Indians. They have to come through joint effort and through some encouragement from the white people. Leadership must come from the Indian agent and the white people of the communities surrounding the reserves. There are perhaps many other things I could mention, but my whole aim is to stress the point that I doubt very much whether legislation is the answer to this problem. That is the message I tried to convey to the meeting which, as I have said, was held last fall. It is up to us to remove that feeling of inferiority from the Indian and give him to understand that he will be accepted into the circles of the white man.

We have heard a little about drinking. In our province the Indians are allowed into the beer parlours. They get tight on occasion. I doubt if they get any tighter or act any worse than some of our white men. At the same time, I have not been too happy about legislation giving the Indians the right to enter beer parlours and to have liquor freely. The problem in giving liquor to Indians is that it is just one more means by which they get rid of their money, which is not too plentiful.

Many are heads of families. I happen to know quite well a family with 14 children. They have a new house, but I will grant you that it is not big enough for 14 children. The head of this household is working and makes from \$10 to \$12 per day. All the children of school age are attending school. They are very well dressed, too. However, with \$10 or \$12 per day the wife finds it difficult to provide school lunches and properly look after these 14 children, of whom I think ten are of school age. That is a problem that would be just as much a problem for a white person. However, I must say that, of the Indians of whom I have knowledge or acquaintance, they seem to be making progress in what I think is the proper way.

I would again emphasize what has been done in this area where leadership has come from the Indian agent, and it seems to be the only one we have heard about. I would say it is up to the Indian affairs branch to see that we have more of this type of Indian

[Mr. McLeod.]

agent. That is where the responsibility of the department lies. I think that is something that should be studied and considered. I have no doubt that it is being given consideration, and that possibly the officials of the department know a whole lot more about what is being done in Vernon and my area generally than I do. However, this is something that should be publicized for it does show, rather than through legislation or reserve improvement, one way in which the Indian can be made part of the community life and accepted on a par with the white man of this country.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Pickersgill thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 439, to amend the Indian Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND APPLICATION, MAKE CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION, ETC.

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

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Public Service Superannuation Act to extend the application of the act, and to provide further for certain changes in consequence thereof and also in connection with the administration of the act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

Mr. Benidickson: Mr. Chairman, as the resolution indicates, this bill is designed to extend the application of certain provisions of the act to certain persons or groups of persons who are not at present able to benefit from it. These extensions in turn call for certain consequential amendments, and in addition the bill will deal with other amendments of an administrative nature.

The principal amendment proposed has to do with the making of an election to continue as a participant after retirement under part II of the act, which provides the supplementary death benefits. It is proposed to provide a year in advance of retirement in which an election may be made in addition to the present very limited period of 3 days following retirement. A provision is also proposed which would validate elections which could not be accepted in the past since they were made just prior to retirement. Many hon. members are aware of this problem, which is a rather complicated one, and I would suggest that any detailed discussion