

Mr. Gall is here to speak to the committee. I wonder if the committee would appreciate having some comments from Mr. Gall before he is questioned?

Agreed.

Mr. E. J. GALL (*Elected Member of Northwest Territory Council for Macenzie Delta*): I will try to keep my remarks brief.

Mr. Chairman, our political evolution in the Northwest Territories has been very, very slow. The reason for this is that the largest part of our population, as you know, has just left a trapping and hunting economy. This is the adult population about which I am talking. Their children at present are in our school system, and possibly when they emerge and graduate from this system they will have different political views.

The balance of our population—and I will name them in order of importance in my view—consist of mining, fishing and civil servant population, plus a group of tradespeople. We can consider the miner, the management and parliament employees who have made their homes in our territories, who have stayed with the mine for a number of years—for its life expectancy—and we will see that they are politically inclined. They give their views and they are interested in the affairs of the territories. The hard-rock miner, as you know, is a very transient worker; he might stay two years, or he might stay one year or six months, and then he moves on. He is interested in his work, but I would not say he is interested in things concerning the territories, and certainly he is not interested in the political attitude. The fisherman is another transient; he comes and goes. The fishing company exists, and naturally he is interested, but the actual work of the fisherman himself is, in its very nature, taking him to southern provinces and back. There are a few local people employed in our lakes, however, and they do have political views.

Then we come to the civil servant. The civil servant is a very intelligent person, but mostly he is a career man. The civil servant comes into our territory, possibly for reasons of experience or to better himself. In some cases he has stayed on, but in other cases it is just a case of passing on. Therefore we are left with a very small core, but they are the true settlers, in my opinion at least. They are the tradespeople, the garage owners, the small-store owners, the small tradesman who has invested his all in our Northwest Territories. This is the man who usually builds up our little towns. I should also include doctors and lawyers, and people in this category contribute to the building of our small towns. They add to the culture and political aspirations. These people are members of our boards of trade and clubs. These people along with the mining companies pay our territorial taxes. You can understand that I cannot speak for the whole of our group, as my confrere has pointed out.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can leave this subject and refer to the industry in our area.

The industrial development in our area has not changed since approximately two years following the last war. Any increase in the industry picture has been due to the development of existing industries. The number of wage earners in Yellowknife, and this is an area with which I am familiar, has been reduced. This has been the result of the closing down of mines or the use of modern methods.

The government educational policies are wonderful, and we thank the government for providing the area with facilities which have made possible this rise in educational standards. The cost of education in these communities has been lowered as a result of the efforts on behalf of the government, but this is a one-sided picture. Our industry is not growing. We have a great potential. Our whole area lies within the Pre-Cambrian shield. We know there