

Indian Act

they do not vote. Then on page 20 the minister is reported as having said:

The status of these Indians who do not live on the reserve and who are not yet enfranchised is, in many ways, similar to the status of immigrants who have not yet become citizens, and we are doing all we can, all the time, to encourage these Indians to accept the full responsibilities of citizenship whenever they seem able to do so.

In another place the minister referred to the Indians as being citizens with a difference. Yes, I would say there was a difference. In some cases a person may come to this country and in five years have the vote, and it may be only one year for others if they apply for citizenship, but for the Indians it has been many, many years and they still have not the vote. The minister calls them citizens with a difference. Yes, there is a difference all right.

These first citizens of this land have fought consistently for Canada. They fought for the British crown through two world wars, or through three wars if we count the war of 1812. Still the minister refers to them as citizens with a difference.

As I understand it, the government has a trust fund of over \$1 million in connection with the Indian reservation at Brantford. Can those Indians get any of that money? It is almost impossible for them to get any. The matter has to go before the band council and be approved unanimously by the council; it has to be sanctioned by the Indian agent and then the minister must sanction it before they can get any money. Yet it is their own money.

It has been said on various occasions that it is the desire to give Indians more responsibility. The Six Nations Indians at Brantford have accepted a great deal of responsibility. They would be prepared to accept a great deal more. However, if the government expects them to become ordinary citizens and takes away all the rights they have now, takes away their reserves which they have now, then they do not want to become citizens. As the hon. member for Brantford mentioned, this reserve once extended from the mouth of the Grand river to its source, six miles on either side. I live in that district. Thousands and thousands of acres of that land were given away practically for a mere song and the reservation is now down to its present size. They have the largest reservation in Canada with the greatest population, and that reservation is dear to them. It is a haven for them.

I hope that this government or any other government will never say to the Indians of Brantford that they cannot retain that reserve. Some mention was made of splitting it up and making it possible for whites to go in and buy land. The minister shakes

[Mr. Charlton.]

his head but that has been mentioned several times.

Mr. Pickersgill: It has never been mentioned by me.

Mr. Charlton: Maybe not by the minister, but he is not the only one in the government who mentions things about Indians. As I say, it has been mentioned.

Mr. Philpott: By your colleague, the hon. member for Brandon-Souris.

Mr. Charlton: I did not hear him. If he did mention that I did not hear him.

Mr. Philpott: He was in favour of breaking up the reservation system.

Mr. Charlton: I did not understand him that way. They are entitled to break up their reservations if they want to according to the provisions of the new act. If they want to do away with their reservations and become enfranchised as a body, that is their right, but certainly it should not be forced upon them in any way.

Progress reported.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

INCLUSION OF SPEECHES MADE AT THE
REOPENING OF THE LIBRARY IN
PROCEEDINGS OF TODAY

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with the consent of the house I should like to revert to motions and to ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition if he would second a motion that the speeches made at the reopening of the library be printed as an appendix to the *Hansard* report.

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): I shall be very happy to agree.

Mr. Speaker: Has the right hon. gentleman leave to revert to motions at this time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): I beg to move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew):

That the address of His Excellency the Governor General, delivered this day upon the occasion of the reopening of the library of parliament, together with the related speeches of the hon. the Speakers of both houses of parliament and the hon. the Minister of Public Works, be included in the House of Commons debates of this day, and form part of the permanent records of this parliament.

Motion agreed to.

(For text of above see appendix, pages 5203-04.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Harris: Tomorrow we will take up defence estimates.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.