

The increased birthrate and all these figures, proving as they do beyond dispute the ever-increasing industry of the Indian and his adaptability to civilized pursuits, should powerfully appeal to a mind inclined towards constructive statesmanship. Every effort that government is capable of should be promptly made to help the Indian in his forward progress, and as we have more Indians in this Province than any other Province of Canada,—and these of a more intelligent class than almost any other tribes,—the duty devolving upon your Government is just so much the more serious.

*Mr. McBride:* These suggestions are very interesting, Mr. Wade, but are they not matters to be dealt with by the Dominion Government?

*Mr. Wade:* No doubt they are to a great extent if the reserves are conveyed to the Dominion Government in accordance with Section 13 of the Terms of Union. But you cannot withhold all title to reserves from the Dominion and at the same time look to that Government to administer them. That is impossible.

I would strongly urge that the helping hand be extended to our 24,000 Indians at once. The reserve system at best is unsatisfactory, as in agricultural pursuits particularly the stimulus of private ownership is absolutely indispensable. The reserve system should be succeeded by the allotment system and this step in advance should be followed by further developments towards real citizenship. This has been already accomplished in the United States with most satisfactory results.

While I have digressed to such an extent in order to indicate some of the features of a beneficial Indian policy which might and should be adopted, I again urge that we first show the Indians our courage and honesty by consenting that the question of their title under the proclamation of George III or otherwise be submitted to the highest Tribunal in the Empire.