

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. My idea was that if we rewarded the Indians financially for a piece of land, without taking some care to see that the money is re-invested in land which we know will be suitable, it is not a very good thing because the Indians could easily spend the money and find themselves without land.—A. It does not solve the problem simply to pay the Indians a financial sum for their lands, because the problem of re-establishment comes up; and once you pay them, of course, they have a right to use the funds as they see fit. But the matter of later re-establishing them on suitable land has not been provided for. I am thinking of an outright sale of land.

*By Mr. Gibson:*

Q. But you could use those moneys, of course, to provide them with decent homes within the city where that property is now. That, I would imagine, would be much more to their advantage.—A. You are thinking of North Vancouver?

Q. Yes, North Vancouver.—A. Well, of course land in the city of North Vancouver is quite expensive at the moment; and I do not know just where they could go in that city and establish themselves with the funds that they could secure from the sale of the North Vancouver reserve.

Q. Would it not be much better to scatter them throughout the community there—try to absorb them with the white people?—A. But if you do that, of course they become members of the municipality and subject to taxation.

*By Mr. Blackmore:*

Q. The all-important question under these circumstances would be if they as Indians would be able to obtain suitable employment and succeed at their employment?—A. Yes; because if they did not, they would lose possession of the land.

*By Hon. Mr. Stirling:*

Q. They would still be wards, would they not?—A. They would be more so still if they lost possession of the land.

Q. Exactly. It does not follow that, if they purchased houses and entered industry, they would really improve their lot.—A. No. They should have some assurance of being self-sustaining and self-reliant.

Mr. HARKNESS: From the straight financial point of view, I should think the longer the Indians held that reserve in North Vancouver, the better off they would be eventually. In other words, I should think the land is going to be worth, some years hence, two or three times as much as it is now, and it would be in their eventual best interests to hold onto it as long as possible.

Mr. GIBSON: In the meantime, there is just a blot on the landscape there and they are certainly not living under very good conditions.

Mr. CASE: They hold it by legal right. No one can buy Indian land from a reservation. It would have to be dealt with through the Crown and the Crown would have to negotiate with the Indians. The whole thing is this. Who would approach them to give up their reservation? After all, is there an agitation to acquire that property?

Mr. GIBSON: No, I do not believe there is an agitation on at the present time; but it just looks to me as if this is a point where the Department of Indian Affairs might give some leadership and guidance to these Indians. This is one opportunity that I see where we might absorb them into our white population which, after all, is the eventual objective.

Mr. CASE: I am inclined to agree with Mr. Harkness. I think probably by remaining Indians they would be better off in a few years' time than they would be if they entered into any negotiations.