

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

through supply bills and appropriation acts is not just as good legislation as any other kind. In fact it was the original kind of legislation for which parliament was established in the middle ages. But I know he regards it as rather medieval.

Mr. Knowles: The Auditor General thinks that, too.

Mr. Pickersgill: Well, the Auditor General has expressed his view. We all have our views on the constitution, and in a free country we are all entitled to our views.

Mr. Macdonnell: I think so too.

Mr. Pickersgill: I think it is probable, though, that at the next session of parliament it will be necessary to suggest some amendments to the Indian Act. If that is done I would certainly feel it would be proper to incorporate this provision in it. The sole purpose is to increase the allowable amount in this revolving fund from \$350,000 to \$650,000.

Mr. Knowles: Because of what the minister has said, I have no serious objection to this being done in this way. We have both made reference to the Auditor General. I do not have his memorandum before me, but if I recall correctly he does not object to legislation being effected by an item in the estimates when it is of a temporary character. The minister suggests that that is what we have here, a temporary provision until the Indian Act is amended. On that basis I have no objection to it being done in this way. Likewise I have no objection to the content of the proposal itself.

Item agreed to.

Welfare of Indians—

562. Operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$600,000.

Mr. Dinsdale: We have here an item of \$600,000, a fairly sizeable sum, and the description is rather vague. There is \$450,000 for materials and supplies. Would the minister explain what is covered by this money?

Mr. Pickersgill: The amount of \$450,000 covers food, clothing and fuel for crippled, blind and indigent Indians. Then there is another \$150,000, making up the \$600,000, required for payment of accounts arising from the cost of food for tuberculosis patients awaiting admission to hospital or convalescing after discharge with their families, or for their families during hospitalization and post-hospitalization periods, as may be necessary. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris will

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

remember that the main item was explained in some detail in the committee upstairs.

Item agreed to.

Education—

563. Administration, operation and maintenance—further amount required, \$155,000.

Mr. Harkness: I notice there is an item of \$100,000 for tuition and maintenance of Indian children in non-Indian and joint schools. I presume that is to cover the cost of sending Indian children to high schools and things of that sort, and it would appear that more Indian children are attending such schools than was estimated. If that is the case I am extremely glad to see it, and I would have been even more delighted if the vote had been twice as much, provided that is the purpose of the vote. Will the minister tell us what the vote covers and, if my presumption is correct, how many Indian children are attending high schools this year?

Mr. Pickersgill: Perhaps the hon. member would not mind referring to volume No. 14 of the proceedings of the special committee on estimates where detailed information is given as to the number of children attending high schools and so on. I do not have the information at my fingertips. The main estimates provided \$7,401,323 for Indian education generally and this particular item of \$100,000 is, as the hon. member for Calgary North has said, an additional amount to pay tuition fees for children going to non-Indian schools. That includes high schools and technical schools and it also includes the considerable number of places—they are growing in number every year, and they cannot grow too fast to suit me—where we make arrangements with the local school authorities to send Indian children to the general schools that the rest of the children attend.

Mr. Harkness: I agree with the last statement of the minister. I merely wondered what proportion of this amount was for the first purpose I mentioned, to send Indian children to high schools and technical schools. If a considerable number of Indian children have now reached the stage where they can take that form of education I think that matter is even more important, because in my opinion the future of the Indian people really depends on carrying their education considerably beyond grade 3 or 4, as has prevailed up until recent years.

Mr. Pickersgill: This of course is an additional amount of money to make up the total for the year, and therefore it could not be