

GENERAL NEWS

McCLURE URGES EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS

Toronto Daily Star - April 4, 1970:-

Dr. Robert McClure, United Church moderator, says in the April 1 United Church Observer, that Canada can learn from some of the churches' experiences abroad to use indigenous labor in areas such as Indian communities.

"In overseas fields," he says, "one of the most satisfying programs has been that of fitting young people for some new type of work growing out of the modernization of an ancient civilization. In mission hospitals, the training of native nurses, lab and x-ray technicians, physiotherapists has been a proud record."

He says it is ridiculous to see Anglo-Saxons being paid high hourly wages to build houses for Indians who cannot get a job.

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SASKATCHEWAN TO FORCE HIRING OF INDIANS

Regina:

Contractors doing work for the Saskatchewan Government will have to hire a certain percentage of Indians or Metis, Premier Ross Thatcher said yesterday.

He refused to say what percentage, but details may be announced next week.

The Government "will not tolerate any roadblocks" in the way of the proposal, either from labor or management.

"I realize the unions won't like this, but we will require them to go along."

Clarence Estey, Minister in charge of the Department of Indians and Metis, said no legislation or regulations are planned on the move. Instead, there will be a clause in each contract let by the Government, stipulating that a percentage of Indians or Metis be hired. The Premier said the Government has been disappointed in efforts to persuade private industry to hire more Indians and Metis, people of mixed Indian-white ancestry.

"There was some voluntary co-operation, but we were disappointed that a lot of white people do not take the situation seriously."

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INDIAN EDUCATION (Macleans)

Why do Indians think they are inferior and elementary? They learn it in school.

The 65,000 Indians at school in Canada are taught to feel that they are inferior persons.

They must read that their forbears were savages in furs and skins. Or they read of common life today - of trips, subway rides, lovely homes, manicured farms; Indian reality is bad housing on reserves or is slums and 78% of their families earning less than \$3,000 a year. Their life expectancy is 34 years; and the national average is 62 years.

40% of Indian children enter school knowing English or French. Their own languages are not taught or used. Only Alberta and Saskatchewan Universities have any real training program for teachers of Indians.

As a result, 50% of Indian students do not get beyond grade 6, 61% beyond Grade 7 and 97% do not get beyond Grade 11. In all Canada about 150 registered Indians (out of 238,000) are in full time University Courses. In all Canada, there are 130 Indian teachers, half of these are on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ontario, which uniquely has been administering its own education for fifteen years.

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INDIAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE

Ottawa: (Globe and Mail Reporter)

The first national Indian cultural conference ended here March 25th with some far-reaching recommendations to the federal government,

One that may raise some controversy among Indian is a recommendation that all the federal administration of Indian cultural affairs be centred in the Secretary of State's Department.

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