

Indian Power (continued)

Some of the prairie provinces have started taking Indian children out of reservation schools and integrating them in provincial school systems. "You have to go out and smell it, taste it and feel it. That's the only way you'll solve Indian poverty," said Joseph Dufour of Toronto. "When you see a little girl pick a mouse out of some drinking water, or 14 persons living in a one-room shack, then you just get to know it isn't right."

Dufour shocked Toronto May 16 by resigning from his \$16,000 a year post as director of the Indian development branch of the Department of Social and Family Services. Six of his nine community development officers resigned with him, all claiming the branch was ineffective. Discrimination is a big concern, but, Parliament hesitates to copy the U.S. civil rights act.

Dr. Gilbert Monture of Ottawa, a highly respected mining engineer and a Mohawk, complains that history courses still picture Indians as barbarians, inhuman savages who take scalps. Without a change in history texts, you can't change the average "white attitude," he says.

Monture claims Canada's Indian Act, crammed with amendments but basically more than 100 years old and hopelessly outdated, forces Indians to forget their racial traditions, submerge their personalities and become "poor whites instead of good Indians."

The government has offered to abolish the act, or at least drastically revise it. But the Indians want to do it themselves. At a meeting in Ottawa last month, representatives of Canada's 588 Indian bands told the federal government: "White man still speaks with forked tongue. We don't trust you, we don't trust your surveys and we don't trust your recommendations."

The Indians might not have much, but they do have 2,274 reservations totaling six million acres. About 70 per-cent of them still live on those reservations, some having tremendous mineral or other development potential.

Even less sophisticated Indians have enough savvy not to give their land away for beads and trinkets. But they still feel they might be swindled without the protection of the Great White Father in Ottawa.

Brigadier O.M. Martin

In the May edition of "The Indian News" Ottawa, appeared a very fine reproduction of the portrait in the Indian Hall of Fame of Brigadier O.M. Martin and the following résumé of his distinguished career:

Oliver Milton Martin, Brigadier, a Mohawk, born on the Six Nations Reservation at Ohsweken, the son of Robert Martin. He began his education in local schools and the Caledonia High School. As a very young man he enlisted in the Haldimand Rifles. In World War 1 he served two years as a Lieutenant of Infantry, then transferred to the Royal Flying Corps for two more year's service. After his return to Canada, he commanded the Haldimand Rifles for seven years. At the same time he became Principal of Danforth Park Public School, Toronto. In World War 11 he was Commandant and Acting D.O.C. of H.L.D. 2 with the rank of Brigadier.

Brigadier Martin was a member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and a member of the Metropolitan Licensing Commission. Branch 345 of the Canadian Legion in East York was named the Brigadier O. M. Martin Branch in his honour. His appointment as Magistrate for the County of York began a distinguished career as a jurist and in this capacity won high praise for his humanity and justice.

\*\*\*\*\*