

Up to Jan. 1, 1960, three bands had asked for, and been granted, the right to spend their own revenue funds, which accrue usually from interest on trust funds held by the Government. Each band draws up an annual budget, submits it to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration for general approval, and then handles its own funds through its own treasurer in a manner similar to that of any rural municipality. Tyendingaga near Belleville in Ontario was the first band to apply for this right. Two other Ontario bands, Walpole Island near Wallaceburg and Moravian near Chatham, quickly followed suit.

These are signs of a desire among the Indians to take over more responsibility for their own affairs and although the process may be long and sometimes painful it is the policy of the Government to give them every encouragement. To equalize their status with other Canadian citizens, a Bill was passed by the Federal Parliament on Mar. 31, 1960\* extending to all Indians the right to vote at federal elections. Previously, while all adult Indians could vote for their own band councils, and those living in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories had the provincial or territorial franchise, only Indian veterans and Indian people established in non-Indian communities had the right to vote in federal elections. The granting of the federal franchise to the Indian does not in any way affect the rights and privileges to which he is entitled.

The Indian has much to offer to Canadian industry and culture. He has been falsely regarded for too long as a "ward" of the Government, when he is in fact a citizen. He has, it is true, certain rights and privileges given him because of historical circumstance but he shares, for example, in most of the social welfare benefits extended to other Canadians, such as family allowances. In 1958-59, 4,539 Indians received old age security, 1,762 old age assistance, 302 disabled persons' allowance, 287 blind persons' allowance and 310 provincially administered and financed mothers' allowance.

In co-operation with provincial authorities, private, foster-home or institutional care is provided when required for children needing care, juvenile delinquents, crippled and unemployable persons and old people. In Ontario, for example, arrangements have been made for the extension of the services of Children's Aid Societies to Indian reserves. In 1959 the "ration system" of relief formerly in use was abolished and indigent Indians were made eligible for assistance by cheque on substantially the same basis as non-Indians. The amount of relief assistance was increased and placed on a sliding scale, varying with the cost of living, thus protecting Indians in remote areas where food costs are high. These changes were designed to place more responsibility on Indian families to manage their own affairs, to remove the stigma of relief as much as possible and to maintain the morale and self-respect of persons who must receive assistance.

The health of Indians is under the care of the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Department maintains seventeen hospitals, 41 nursing stations with four to ten beds and 108 health centres where treatment, but no bedside care, is provided. The most dramatic advances have been made in the field of child care and in the treatment of tuberculosis. In 1958 there were fewer than 3,500 Indians under treatment for tuberculosis compared with 5,900 in 1955. As each province adopts a general hospital insurance plan, the Indians have been included. The policy is to avoid distinction between the Indians and other citizens of Canada.

**The Eskimos.**†—Eskimos are the only native people who live in both America and Asia and there are no more than 50,000 of them in the world. In Canada the Eskimo population is about 11,500, very thinly dispersed across the sprawling top of the Continent. The main groups live along the northern coast of the Western Arctic, on Baffin Island, largest in the Arctic Archipelago, and in northern Quebec. In only four centres—Aklavik and Inuvik near the mouth of the Mackenzie River, Fort Chimo on the southern point

\* Not yet proclaimed at time of going to press.

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