

For the 9th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Eskimo Education

Expansion of Educational Facilities for Eskimos

Less than 25 % (748) of school age Eskimos are in full-time schools. An additional 9% (300) attend school occasionally in part-time mission schools. Most of those enrolled full time attend school irregularly unless they are in residential schools. When our present plans for expansion have materialized, we will have space for an additional 300 Eskimo children. New schools, chiefly to accommodate Eskimos, are planned for Eskimo Point, Spence Bay, Aklavik, Payne Bay and Povungnetuk, with the expansion of facilities at Frobisher Bay and possibly other points such as Great Whale River. Appendix A gives a detailed analysis of all Eskimo children attending school in full-time schools or part-time mission schools. Appendix B gives a breakdown of the total school age Eskimo population according to registration districts and projects these figures to 1965.

The average number of Eskimos born each year for the past ten years was 415. The death rate for this period averaged approximately 185. An increase in educational facilities is therefore necessary even to keep abreast with the population trend.

Means of extending education among the Eskimos which the administration intends to use are as follows:

1. Tent Hostel - The Coppermine Tent Hostel was opened in April, 1955, with an enrolment of 28 children, most of whom were from points within a 60 mile radius of Coppermine. On the date of opening there were only 10 children in the Federal Day School classified as day children and whose parents were resident in Coppermine. In 1956, the hostel accommodated 36 children. During the period September 1954 to 1956, a total of 59 children attended the Coppermine Federal Day School from one to twenty-four months. These figures show that the majority of children in and around this settlement were classified as being eligible for hostel accommodation. Because the academic achievement of the pupils in this hostel does not compare favorably with the achievement of pupils in the ten-months residential schools, people of Coppermine area are not giving the tent hostel their full support. This is an unfair comparison, but it is being made, and as a result, Canon Sperry, the local Anglican Missionary, had been doubtful whether he could recruit a full complement of children this year for the hostel. We now know that 30 have been recruited. To offset the criticism mentioned above, we could extend the length of the term of the tent hostel to eight months. At the same time the tent accommodation might be improved or replaced by cabins. If this were done, the educational programme which would result might well be both more popular and more efficient. We are considering this but it is a major commitment to continuing this type of hostel and we are not yet ready for a decision. The views of the Sub-Committee would be helpful.

It is possible that a similar experiment carried on in the eastern Arctic might meet with much more success, even if operated on a five-month basis. It is, however, probably wise to replace the tents with more permanent cabins. We propose, therefore, that this experiment be continued at one of the following locations: 1. Arctic Bay; 2. Pond Inlet; 3. Igloodik. These sites are selected because they are isolated and therefore should not be influenced unduly by any of the ten month residential schools or hostels.



5. Place Teams of Teachers, or Single Teachers, in Every Centre in the North Which is Served by a Trading Post - Details concerning this plan are attached. If this plan is followed, we will then be bringing education to most Eskimo children.