

On their behalf, and presumably at their request, Mr. Laurie, Secretary of the Alberta Indian Association, very recently investigated the local situation on the ground and in cooperation with the Indians of the group has tentatively selected a location for a permanent addition to the Stony Reserve on the Saskatchewan River in Township 39, Ranges 16 and 17, W.4.

Mr. Laurie reports that there is suitable land presently in loose Indian occupation but otherwise unoccupied and unused. He further reports that in the block of land which he examined, of which the Indians might be expected to require, say, 5,000 acres, parcels of land suitable for small farms, small ranches and for community grazing could be found. He visualizes homesites, small farms, small ranches and the establishment of an Indian community that could be readily administered with very little field staff from a headquarters at Nordegg.

The difficulty in the matter is that the Alberta Government to date have been unwilling to establish these people due to the fact that the location selected is in the middle of a forest reserve. This may not be so serious now as it was as the Province in giving these people registered traplines in the forest reserve now have them under close supervision and their presence is probably less objectionable than it was when they were footloose and nomadic.

From the viewpoint of the Province to sell us a block of land on which we could permanently establish these Indians would have the advantage of tying them down thus making them more susceptible to control.

From the viewpoint of this Department confirming the Indians in their right to live there by giving them land on which to live and maintain themselves would only be the recognition of rights which they have acquired by long occupancy and, as before stated, would make it possible for us to extend to them the services which it is the duty of the Department to make available to them.

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