

INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES



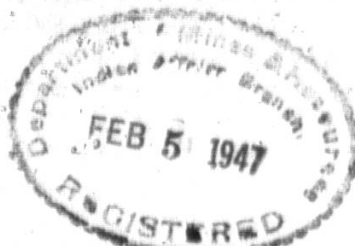
CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

119-14-1

CALGARY, Alberta,  
February 1st, 1947.

R. A. Hoey, Esq.,  
Director,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
Dept. of Mines & Resources,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.



Re: Land Addition to Stony Reserve  
Mitford Property

Upon the acquisition of the Coppock-Crawford Ranches, negotiations to lease some 810 acres of virgin land adjoining the aforementioned properties, were started by us through the solicitor of the owners in England, Mr. Hannah of Hannah, Nolan, Chambers & Co. The land in question is known as the Mitford Coal Company property.

Recently Mr. Manley Edwards, solicitor for the Justice Department, was advised by Mr. Hannah that he had now authority to negotiate with the Crown. Mr. Hannah suggested that an offer be submitted to him to lease this land and in such a form as would be acceptable to the Crown but reserving to the Lessors the mines and minerals and the rights to enter upon such portion of the surface as they might require for any mining operations.

In previous correspondence it will be noted that Mr. Hannah had received expert advice that the land should command a rental of 50¢ per acre, but it was our contention that this was much too high. We indicated that the maximum rental that the Department received for grazing land was 25¢ per acre, and we recommended that 25¢ per acre be offered. Whether or not it will be accepted by Mr. Hannah is not known. The taxes, which amount to between \$40.00 and \$50.00, would necessarily have to be paid out of this, so the rental received by the Department of 25¢ per acres on Indian Reserves would not be comparable, since there are no taxes to be paid. It will be reasonable to assume that a rental, which might be acceptable for the 800 acres, will be in the vicinity of \$250.00.

During an interview with Mr. Edwards on the 31st ultimo, I stressed the fact that this land was so situated to the north of the Coppock-Crawford Ranches and adjacent to the C.P.R. right-of-way, that its acquisition was not only vital to the retention and use of the stock pens and loading platforms purchased from the Coppock Estate, but also to keep out undesirable neighbors. In the final analysis we agreed that the Crown should sooner or later try to purchase this property, and why not now? The sooner the better.