

Re: Nordegg Fish and Game Association Meeting at Nordegg, Alberta.

1. The projected Thompson Highway, connecting Nordegg with the Icefields Highway to the South and West has aroused a marked interest in the Nordegg area in the potential tourist traffic which would be attracted to the district through the abundance of Big Game and excellent scenery. The local Fish and Game Association draws its membership from the ranks of the Licensed Guides and Packers in the region and the Outfitters in and around Nordegg. Certain local groups are interested in this tourist potential and are planning to establish Auto Camps along the Highway. Tentative sites have been selected and with the intention of making these attractive to tourists steps are being taken to ensure the presence of Big Game along the Highway. A meeting on the 2nd Inst., attended by some seventy-five residents, which included some thirty-five of the Stoney Band of Indians, discussed a proposal to forward to the Alberta Provincial Government a resolution requesting a Game Preserve be set up along the road. A study of the attached map will show the boundaries of this projected Preserve.
2. It is now recognized that the members of the Stoney Band residing in the Clearwater Forest Reserve do not intend abandoning their traditional hunting and trapping grounds to find a home with the remainder of the Band at Morely or in any other location. Since these people enjoy a good livelihood and since they have not presented a substantial problem to the Welfare division of the Indian Affairs Branch and since they also enjoy the confidence and respect of the people of the Nordegg Area it would seem most practical to provide them with a suitable Reserve of sufficient size to meet their needs. I have indicated on the attached map the location of the Reserve as indicated to me by some of the Indians I met whilst at Nordegg. I found that they are not in agreement as to either the size or the location but the place indicated on the map would be one of the most satisfactory as far as I was able to learn. I must emphasize here that I did not inspect this location or any other and cannot give a definite opinion until I have made such an inspection.
3. Mr. Melving Reid, who operates a garage and tourist cabin outfit at Nordegg and who was responsible for calling the meeting on the 2nd Inst. was interviewed and this whole matter of the suggested Game Preserve and its general picture as related to the Indians was discussed. I could not avoid receiving the impression that the people of Nordegg have the impression that they have the final say as to the disposition of the land in the Clearwater Reserve and they have the authority to say where the Indian Reserve may or may not be located. I did not find, however, any resentment or hostility toward the Indians or their problems.
4. I also learned that certain interests would be pleased to see the Indians given control of all the hunting and trapping that is available in the Clearwater Reserve. This is not needed or is it being requested by the Indians. They are content with their present Registered Trapping Areas and are making a fairly good living. I do not see that any Game Preserve which might be established would effect the Indians' hunting and trapping. At present it would appear that our efforts should be directed along the lines of locating and obtaining a suitable Reserve for the Stoney Indians. I believe I met most of the heads of the Indian families in the district and they seemed to be very anxious to have such a home located for them and they did not seem to feel that their rights nor privileges were being infringed in any way. It is understandable that persons who are dependent on guiding and packing for a living would be anxious to curtail casual hunting by car drivers along the highway. At present it is possible to get a big game animal by walking a short distance from the road and hence many potential hunters do not need the services of a guide to get their game. This is the reason for the resolution and not to restrict the activities of the Indian hunter in any way.

EDMONTON 15-2-47.

W.B. Skead
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