

Feb 15/47

and, in co-operation with the Indian group, has tentatively selected a location on the Saskatchewan River in township 29 ranges 16 and 17 west of the 4th. If you refer to a map of this part of the province, you will note the area in question might be bounded on the north and west by the new David Thompson Highway, and would comprise some acreage on either side of the North Saskatchewan River. It is our belief that a block of land of 5000 acres would be sufficient.

It is our considered opinion that these Indians will not leave this area except under very great pressure. As you may be aware, they comprise part of the Stony-Sioux, who have their present Agency headquarters at Morley, Alta. Within the last year a ten thousand acre ranch property was purchased as an addition to the Morley Reservation for those who lived there. Instructions have also been given to purchase acreage in the Pekisko area for those Stonies who have for generations lived there. The Government of Canada has made the money available for the additions at Morley and Pekisko, and also for the purchase of acreage for the Nordegg group. You will therefore realize that the Federal Government is serious in its desire to establish these groups on reservations in the locality where they live.

It has been a great satisfaction to those of us in the field to find the close co-operation and good feeling that exists between the whites at Nordegg, your officials on the Clearwater Forest Reservation and the Indians in that area. Since our interview, there was received in this office a letter from the Secretary of the Nordegg Fish and Game Association and a little sketch showing the area that this Association thinks these Indians should get as a Reservation. Attached hereto are copies for your information. You will note that the Association includes even a greater area than the Indians may need in the territory they would like to be situated. I may say, as one who has been with Indians many years, this is an unusually fine gesture on behalf of a white organization, and it would only be made where the whites realize that their Indian neighbors are considered an asset to the district. I think you will find this to be a fact. On investigation you will find that they are self-supporting, live in very good homes, and even have some very good stock, despite the fact that they realize they are remaining only at the will of your Government. If people in such temporary conditions can be an asset to the district, then it is reasonable to assume that, if they were given some permanency they would be that much better.

It is hoped that the foregoing is of some value to you, and that in the near future or when the writer comes to Edmonton in March, you will be in a position to say that negotiations will be considered.

Yours faithfully,

G. H. Gooderham,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Alberta Inspectorate.

GHG:RM
enc.