

With the Crees it is different. The only object they can have in going south is to hunt or steal horses, and with buffalo so scarce, I think there would be no object in giving them permits.

I think if an arrangement could be made with the United States Government in the direction suggested by His Excellency the Governor-General, and the Indians were formally notified of it, it would assist us in inducing a large number of Crees to go north, as they would have to understand that any found in United States Territory would be arrested.

At any rate I think it would be more advisable to endeavor to bring about an arrangement of this nature with the American Government than to assent to the proposition made by the Minister at Washington, through Mr. L. S. Sackville West, to His Excellency the Governor-General, which I am convinced is impracticable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. DEWDNEY,

*Indian Commissioner.*

*Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the 24th April, 1882.*

The Committee of Council have had under consideration a despatch dated 31st March, 1882, from Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, Mr. Sackville West, enclosing a communication from Mr. Frelinghuysen, the Secretary of State for the United States, together with a memorandum from His Excellency the Governor-General upon this despatch adverting to previous correspondence on the subject of alleged incursions of British Indians into the United States territory.

The Right Honorable Sir John Macdonald, the First Minister, to whom the said despatch, with enclosures and His Excellency's memorandum were referred, reports that previous to the transfer to Canada of the North-West Territories by the Hudson's Bay Company, the Indians of that country on both sides of the line were allowed to roam at will in pursuit of buffalo, in fact the international boundary might be considered as unknown to the aborigines. Indians of the same race and lineage lived on both sides of the line, and were as one people:

That since the acquisition of the country by Canada, every exertion has been made by the Canadian Government to induce the British Indians to abandon their nomadic habits and settle down on reservations provided for them:

That considerable success had attended those efforts in the most northerly portion of the Canadian territories, but it has been impossible to attain any marked progress with the Indians near the international boundary, owing to the presence in Canadian territory, until recently, of several thousand United States Indians:

That those Indians having now returned to the United States, Your Excellency is aware that the policy of urgently pressing our Indians to leave the frontier and settle on Reserves provided for them well in the interior, is being pursued with increased vigor, and with good hopes of success. It cannot, however, be expected that the Indians will be induced by the efforts of one season to abandon altogether what they consider their traditional rights.

That in the case of the Blackfeet and Assiniboine tribes, allied by blood to each other, who are settled by treaty, both by the United States and the Canadian Governments, near to each other, it is not reasonable to demand that these people should not visit each other, but regulations may be introduced to allow this, while any proved depredations committed by individuals may be punished:

That it is believed that no military force, however strong, will prevent occasional raids from either side, as is shown by the repeated horse and cattle stealing expeditions from the United States to Canadian territory:

That the suggestion made by Your Excellency that individual permits be granted by the authorities of both nations to their respective Indians who may wish to cross