

tion of having them surveyed and sep apart in order that encroachments on them might be prevented. The efforts made have not, however, so far been productive of a settlement of the question, owing mainly to the difficulty experienced in locating lands at points satisfactory to the Indians.

The Bands inhabiting the upper St. Maurice Territory objected to La Tuque because of its distance from their hunting grounds, while the Abenakis objected to it on the ground not only of its distance from the centres of civilization, but because, as they allege, the country is rocky and sterile.

In order to meet this objection the Crown Lands Department offered to the Abenakis through Mr. Henry Vassal lands in the neighbourhood of the Grande de Tour, near Lake Bouchette, but this offer they declined on the 15th January 1889, as reported by Mr. Vassal in his letter of the 22nd of that month, on the plea that they would "derive no advantage in accepting a Reserve within the Territory indicated". Mr. Vassal states that he had received the plan of the territory proposed to be given for these Reserves from the Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands, which plan, however, is not of record in this Department.

It seems to be tolerably clear that, if Reserves for these Indians are to be located, the Department of Indian Affairs must now take the initiative.

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