

8. Forest Reserves, (Appendix G). The maintenance of the water table throughout not only Alberta but almost the whole of the settled portion of Saskatchewan and nearly all of Manitoba is said to depend upon the preservation of the forest cover on the eastern slopes of the Rockies in which most of the rivers watering the western plains take their rise. The protection of the Mackenzie River basin against floods is also said to depend at least in part upon the preservation of this forest cover. The mountain slopes in question were some time ago set aside as the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve, and there are certain other forest reserves and forest areas in the Province which it might be in the national interest to retain under the jurisdiction of the Dominion. These are described, and the provisions which might be included in an agreement on this head are discussed in Appendix G.

9. Indian Lands (Appendix H). The cost of extinguishing the Indian title in the Province of Alberta has been wholly borne by the Dominion of Canada, and substantial annuities are payable indefinitely under the Indian treaties. Since all matters relating to Indians are under the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of the Dominion, it is obviously necessary to reserve from the transfer of the public lands to Alberta all the Indian reserves in existence, and to obtain from the Province an undertaking to transfer to the Dominion upon request such other areas as may be selected by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs as being necessary to enable the Dominion to fulfil its treaty obligations. The total area likely to be required in the future can be definitely limited and it is not great. In addition an agreement should provide for recognition by the Province of the hunting and fishing rights to which the Indians are entitled by treaty. The inclusion of a provision for the assumption by the Province of the whole or part

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