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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

1951 SEP 23 AM 10:56

Whitehorse, Y.T.,
September 27, 1951.

INDIAN AFFAIRS
Indian Affairs Branch,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Reference your letter of 18th instant with enclosures from D.J. Allan, Superintendent Reserves and Trusts, file 166/30-5 (R2), of 13th instant; and C.K. LeCapelain, Acting Director, Department of Resources and Development, file 8-0-447.

The area immediately around the proposed Indian Reserve at the Klukshu fishing station is not suitable for grazing. There are 14 horses shown on my returns for last fiscal year, belonging to the Champagne Band, and not all of these are in the Klukshu area. The horses range for themselves in summer, in the winter there are recognized grazing ranges in the Champagne area where the various stock owners take their horses, and in which they fend for themselves. In a land of sparse feed the range land needed is very extensive for horses. I do not think the requirements for an Indian Reserve as I understand them would suitably apply for grazing land here. I am not prepared to recommend the proposed Indian Reserve for the Champagne Band at Klukshu be enlarged to include grazing facilities.

Indians have lived permanently at Klukshu in years gone by. Not, however, since my tenure of office (1946). It is customary for Klukshu village site to be occupied to a greater or lesser degree from early June to late September. When not at the fishing station the Indians are on their trap-lines, anywhere up to 150 miles away. Almost all of the Indians of the Yukon are nomadic, and, while they may not occupy an exact place continuously, they live in the general area most of their lives. The cabins at Klukshu may have been lived in for five or six years continuously, then left vacant for several years. One Indian may, and usually does, have several cabins, one being his summer home, another his trap-line cabin or cabins; added to this he may live in a tent several months each year. It is very probable that Klukshu village will be occupied the year round by at least one family whose trap-line includes Klukshu. While this Branch may be requested to construct one or two homes at Klukshu, I believe a request for construction of a school rather remote. Referring to the final sentence of Mr. LeCapelain's letter, the property of the Roman Catholic mission should be excluded from the proposed Indian Reserve.

R. J. Meek
(R. J. Meek)
Superintendent

c.c. Indian Commissioner for B.C.