

Copy for Mr & N Luxton

JULY 24TH 1938

Report of conference held in office of Supt P.J.Jennings, Banff, in connection with Indian Days and future policy of them.

Present. Indian Days Committee members N.K.Luxton, W.E.Round, D.White Jr., T.H.Balderston, Dr Murray. Indians-- 19 Stoney Chiefs and Councillors, and three others, Johnny Bearspaw, Dan Wildman & G.McLean. Supt P.J.Jennings in the chair. Opening 5.35 P.M.

Supt Jennings explained the ideas of the department; George McLean interpreted to the Stoneys. Points brought out by Supt P.J.Jennings were....

- (1) Matter of limiting number of Indians. (Numbers not discussed at the moment)
 - (2) Cutting down on the rodeo stuff, substituting historical pageants, showing Indian history to date, retaining all genuine old Stoney sports,
 - (3) Having a marquee to display handicrafts and also to offer them for sale to tourists
 - (4) Presentation to the department of a properly drawn up and accredited financial report.
- On all but number 4, Mr Jennings went into detail for the better understanding by the Stoneys.

Dr Murray read a letter from Revd E.J.Staley, one of the two committee members not present. Mr Staley recommended cutting down the number of Stoneys attending Indian Days by 50 per cent; strongly advocated the pageants, and handicrafts displays, and claimed that nothing is gained and much is lost by Indians in stampedes.

Mr N.K.Luxton then explained Mr Staley's letter carefully to the Stoneys and George McLean interpreted.

Mr Luxton stated he was in full agreement with the Department's ideas but asked Mr Jennings if as the new items would cost considerable money to stage, the department would be prepared to assist financially.

Mr Jennings replied that he believed the Parks Department could be persuaded to make a donation as the department did for the Winter Carnival.

Dr Murray stated that he believed the Department of Indian Affairs would support the new move in the same manner as in the Calgary Exhibition of Indian Handicrafts--about \$500.

Mr Luxton stated that he did not believe that people would go to the grounds to look at exhibits. Revd Mr Staley tried exhibits some years ago and it was a "flop". Regarding buying Indian goods, people like to go into the topees and buy, he stated.

Mr Luxton asked "How many Indians would the department be prepared to allow to come to Indians Days? This year there were 587".

Mr Jennings replied that it was at present indefinite. Although the request was to cut down the number, yet if all co-operated in the new move it might be as well to let this wait and see how many would be needed for the proper staging of all items.

Mr Luxton asked interpreter George McLean, "Can you leave any Indians at home?".

George McLean "I don't think so, they are all so closely related that they all want to come, and some won't come without the others".

Mr Luxton then asked the Indians if they were willing to stop going to small places like Sundre, Black Diamond and others, and all come to Banff Indian Days only if the Department would agree to that. He pointed out that that would mean missing the Calgary Stampede also, excepting in the case of the specified number of tepees to which the department agreed.

Chiefs and Councillors then replied in turns as follows:-

Chief Jacob Two-Young-Men..... If the department is willing to give the Stoneys enough work to make all Indians live on the reserve that will suit them and they will only go to Banff Indian Days each year. If Indians can make a living on their own reserve "we can make all the sports we want on the reserve for ourselves".

"Moreover, about the Staley letter, we would like to have the chance to show what the pupils of the church and school have done. We have done it in Calgary. We have come here for fifty years and it has never been brought up but once."

Questioned about "sports on the reserve" and if he meant visitors should go there from Banff, he replied "If park visitors want to go there it is alright. If not, it is alright. Nothing going to be done in that line". (Last was taken to mean that they would not put on their own sports at Morley to get visitors, but would do it for their own pleasure).

Chief David Bearspaw..... (Supported Jacob Two-Young Men's statements by repeating them). "I'm old man now. I don't realise any other way than for the whole tribe to come. Mr Staley says cut numbers in half, old man then will feel confinement. When I left Morley I had 25 cts in my pocket, I now go back home with full belly and with money to buy food at store at Morley. I come to Indian Days now a long time and never feel for kill Indian Days. If Department put up enough money to give Indians work, Indians stay home from Stampedes. Mr Jennings say old Indians tell over radio about how fathers lived and what they do. To tell about my father make me ashamed to be my father's son".

Johnny Powderface..... "Banff Indian Days called that for everybody. If only some come then I feel for me to come up here....feel for rest of those who stay home hungry while we have good time. For the whole tribe, like big family children, like to have lots to eat and have good time like everybody else. The Government have all kinds of ways of making money for grub, but doesn't look after Indians like look after themselves. Feel if we come here and let poor people go hungry on the reserve, it not fair to them, and we Indians don't have money and don't always be looking for enjoyment, not having money to do it. Indian Days as we call it, everybody come here for one week holiday for us. and all get enough to eat while most get a little money. Our main head chief we are all behind him and we stay back of him"

XIndian Days

3.

Mr Jennings explained "Suppose 250 come this year, and 250 come next year, it will be a bigger treat for those coming this year".

Jacob Two-Young-Men.... "IF ALL CANNOT COME THERE WILL BE NO INDIAN DAYS NEXT YEAR". "Indians will stay away from all stampedes, Calgary Stampede and all others, if all Indians allowed to come to Banff next year", and department gives them enough work to live on the reserve".

Rolling-In-The-Mud
Isaac-~~Two-Young-Men~~..... "I have same wishes as chiefs. Old people on rations do not get enough to last a week and chiefs and headmen help them out. Old people never go to Stampedes just come to Indian Days. Mr Staley should do this children pageant work himself.

Jonas Rider..... (In effect a repetition of chiefs' statements): "Banff people and Stoneys get along good from days of little bridge when we ran races down the street. I feel know somebody has some "hesitation" reducing Indian Days at Banff. All Indians want to come and visit mountains once a year. Feel sorry if I not come and want to die."

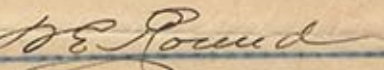
Moses Jimmy-John..... "I go to Calgary Stampede first time this year. Never before go to others only to Banff Indian Days". (Rest of speech repetition of previous speeches.)

Dan Wildman.... "Committee please tell the story of Indians and what they need. No ill-feeling between each other (committee and department) please settle it in a nice way, committee and department".

Judas Hunter.... "All Stoneys stay with what chiefs have said".

Indian Days Committee members unanimously agreed that it would be at present preferable for Mr Jennings to report the result of the meeting to the Departments interested.

Signed



W.E. Round.