

Exclusive of these reserves the Indian land consists of 589,350 acres, 232,102 acres of which is allotted land, and 357,248 acres tribal. The non-Indian owned land within the reservation now totals approximately 612,764 acres. Originally there were 2460 allotments made in 1908, and 920 were made in 1920.

There are approximately 95,000 acres of allotted Indian land leased to non-Indians each year, and approximately 60,000 acres of tribal land used by whites. Thus the Indians use about 282,000 acres which is about 65 per cent of their usable holdings. One of the main causes of the non-use of Indian land by Indians is the fractionated heirship status of the land. Efforts are being made to correct this condition.

-- Population and Industry --

On June 1, 1944, there were 3465 Indians on the rolls of the Flathead Reservation. Only 325 of these were full bloods, and about 40 per cent were 1/4 degree Indian or less. Livestock is the principal industry of the Indians. They own about 4,000 head of beef cattle and 1,400 head of dairy cattle. Successful dairying by the Indians (especially certain of the mixed-bloods) is a growing industry. Wage work, however, is the principal source of income to the Indians. But some \$14,000 was received during 1944, for native products and from Indian arts and crafts. Some of the Indian women make excellent buckskin gloves and moccasins. The trapping of fur bearing animals has the possibility of growing into a significant enterprise if proper regulation and conservation measures are exercised and continued. The mineral Hot Springs at the town of Hot Springs, on the reservation is becoming a health resort. It represents a profitable enterprise for the Flathead tribe, and promises to grow into a much larger business.

The white population of the reservation is estimated as 12,000 people. Thus the total of white and Indian would be about 15,500 people.

Livestock production and irrigation farming is the main industry of the white people on the reservation. The lumber industry, however, is very important. It probably represents a million-dollar-business on the reservation during the year. Then there are of course many small merchandising businesses in all the small towns. Recreation activities may become an industry in the future. Good opportunities exist for "Dude ranching" mountain and fishing excursions, hunting parties, skiing, etc.

There are 2,084 irrigated farms on the reservation, 1,800 are operated by white farmers, and 200 by Indians. The total acreage irrigated by the Flathead Irrigation Project in 1944, was 80,532 acres. The water supply for this irrigation project comes from about 40 small streams. This is supplemented by pumping from the Flathead River. There are also some 15 small storage reservoirs in the reservation which serve various areas of the project by collecting the water from some of these small streams when they are not fully in use.

An important man-made feature and development on the reservation is the Electric Power System. The Montana Power Company owns the Kerr dam and power plant on the Flathead River just four miles southwest of Polson. This power plant generates electricity for use throughout the northwest. Its largest customer is the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. But a certain block of this power is delivered to a transformer station of 10,000 K.V.A. capacity for transmission and distribution throughout the reservation. Hence, not only do