

HIGH PLAINS INSPECTION held FEBRUARY 6, 1982.

On Saturday morning, Messrs. Lieberman, Ramsay, Stacey, secretary Trevor Armstrong and also Mrs. Ramsay and Mrs. Stacey were taken on an inspection of Ropers's and Fitzgerald's grazing areas which are to be transferred to National Parks.

They were accompanied by J. Commins, L. McCready, G. Stoney, I. Roper and E. Weston.

We drove to the crest above Roper's hut, passing a few small mobs of cows and calves, and a prolific growth of native flowers.

Our visitors expressed surprise at the small numbers of cattle, the excellent condition of the snow grass and herbs, and were unable to see any damage because of grazing.

We then visited an eroded patch in a valley on Mt. Nelse. This was obviously caused by natural causes, which were explained to and understood by our visitors.

Our next call was to Fitzgerald's hut. The type of structure was appreciated and its usefulness to cattlemen and others was fully explained. It was emphasized that a lot of visitors who used cattlemen's huts failed to appreciate the privileges they are given.

We emphasized that the 60 sq. miles to be transferred to National Parks will waste good grazing and deteriorate through lack of grazing and stressed the fact that multiple usage as recommended by our Association should be accepted before it is too late, stressing that 120 years of grazing hadn't damaged the country.

As a result of this trip, Mr. Lieberman is going to arrange for three of us to have lunch with The Premier, and arrange for him to make a similar inspection. We will endeavour to have the Minister of Agriculture and the Leader of the Legislative Council in the party.

Mr. Stacey who is chairman of the committee advising Cabinet on conservation matters was impressed with the cattlemen's handling of the area.

Mr. Ramsay, is so interested that he wishes to visit the area when this years muster is on. The N.E. Branch could handle this matter.

I am having a further meeting with Mr. Lieberman in Myrtleford next week.

Our Association has excellent relations with those government officials who implement the laws, however, this visit confirms that we must educate and convince those who make the laws that they can avoid wasting this summer grazing by multiple usage, nor can the cattlemen be phased out of business either for political or economic reasons.

Lyle McCready.