

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Seventeenth Session of Council
held on Wednesday, the 2nd April, 1930, in the
office of the Commissioner, Mr. W. W. Cory, C.M.G.,
at Ottawa.

PRESENT:

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| Mr. W. W. Cory (in the Chair) | - | Commissioner |
| Mr. R. A. Gibson | - | Deputy Commissioner |
| Dr. D. C. Scott | - | Member of Council |
| Colonel Cortlandt Starnes | - | " " " |
| Mr. H. H. Rowatt | - | " " " |
| Mr. O. S. Finnie | - | " " " and |
| | | Director N.W.T. & Y. Branch |
| Mr. D. L. McKeand | - | Secretary |

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Mr. W. M. Cory | - | Legal Adviser |
| Mr. K. R. Daly | - | Legal Adviser |
| Mr. G. P. Mackenzie | - | N.W.T. & Y. Branch |
| Mr. L. T. Burwash | - | " " " |
| Commander C. P. Edwards | - | Department of Marine |
| Mr. Laurent Beaudry | - | Department of External Affairs. |

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

The Minutes of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Sessions of Council held on Thursday, the 6th March, 1930, and on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1930, respectively, having been sent to the members of Council and no alterations being suggested, it was moved by Mr. Rowatt, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that the Minutes be adopted. Carried.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -**(a) Committee on Legislation -**

- (i) Maintenance of orphans, neglected and destitute children beyond 15 years.
- (ii) Legalizing process of adoption of Eskimo children.
- (iii) Miner's Lien Ordinance.
- (iv) Woodsman's Lien Ordinance.

Progress reported and discussion deferred.

(b) Employees of Dominion Government trapping and trading in fur in the North West Territories contrary to Departmental instructions -

Mr. Finnie reported that he had not completed his studies with respect to this matter, and therefore the necessary memorandum to Council amending the North West Game Regulations had not been drafted. A brief discussion ensued, and it was agreed that the regular form of hunting and trapping license should be issued to

Government employees but that attention should be drawn, by means of a notice written in red ink on the face of the permit, to a new clause in the regulations, given hereunder, prohibiting officers and employees of the Government of Canada from trading and trafficking in game within the meaning of the North West Game Regulations. It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that Council go on record as recommending the inclusion of the following sub-section, which shall be numbered 5 (a) in the regulations respecting game in the North West Territories:-

"Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph (5) no officer or employee of or under the Government of Canada shall, directly or indirectly, in his own name or in that of any other person, engage in trading or trafficking in game within the meaning of these regulations."

Carried.

3. New Business -

(d) Sovereignty over Cumberland sound -

In order that Mr. Beaudry might not have to sit through the whole Session, it was unanimously agreed to give priority to item 3 (d).

The Secretary read a copy of a telegram addressed to the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries by the Norwegian Consul General at Montreal, asking whether the catching of whitefish in Cumberland sound was allowed for Norwegian citizens domiciled in Norway. The Secretary also read reports on the subject prepared by Mr. G. P. Mackenzie and Mr. J. D. Craig. These reports indicated that the reference to whitefish in the telegram in all probability was intended for white whale and that the taking of these whale according to the existing practice is entirely within the three-mile limit or, in other words, within territorial waters. Mr. Beaudry said that he assumed the taking of these white whale in territorial waters by Norwegians would not be permitted and he was advised that this was the view of the members of Council. Mr. Mackenzie stated that the large number of white whale being taken in Cumberland sound by the Hudson's Bay Company was brought to the attention of the Fisheries Department in 1925 and that Department was not at first particularly concerned inasmuch as they were paying a bounty for the killing of these mammals in more southern waters, but when they appreciated the fact that the white whale in the Cumberland Sound area is extensively used for food by the Eskimo and that there was no commercial fishing carried on in those waters, they co-operated fully with the Department of the Interior in having the Hudson's Bay Company eliminate, as far as practicable, all waste in these whaling operations. At the present time the killing is not of such magnitude as to give concern and the oil and meat are all conserved.

It was then suggested that the Norwegians might contemplate adopting a different method of capture, and that there was a possibility of their making use of floating factories and operating outside the three-mile limit. Mr. Mackenzie said that Mr. A. E. Porsild advised him that in Greenland they recognized for fishery purposes, as inland waters, any bays or inlets less than ten miles in width at the entrance. Mr. Beaudry said he believed that this was generally accepted in International law but that his Department was verifying this, particularly with regard to Norwegian waters. Mention was made also of the list prepared by the Sub-Committee on Territorial Waters of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Codification of International Laws governing bays, etc., of more than ten miles in width at the entrance that were considered territorial waters for geographic or historic reasons.

It was suggested that it might be advisable to notify Mr. Parsons, Hudson's Bay Company's representative, Montreal, of the telegram received from the Norwegian Consul General.

It was then moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that the correspondence as read be referred to Dr. Skelton in order that he might take the matter up with the Department of Fisheries and deal with it as deemed most advisable.

2. (c) Half-breed Scrip -

Deferred, until October session.

(d) Radio Stations - Fort Norman,
Herschel Island, etc. -

The Secretary read a letter dated the 2nd April, 1930, addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of the Interior, from Mr. E. Hawken, Acting Deputy Minister of Marine, with respect to the proposed radio stations at Coronation gulf and Chesterfield inlet (copy attached). A brief discussion ensued, during which it was reported that the Minister had submitted a recommendation to Council with respect to the establishment of a radio station at Norman to be built by the Department of National Defence. Commander Edwards furnished valuable data respecting the cost of establishing radio stations, and it was then moved by Dr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Finnie, that the establishment by the Department of Marine of the stations at Chesterfield, Coronation and Herschel Island be favourably recommended to the Minister.

(e) Appointment of Dr. J. A. Urquhart, J.P.,
having authority of two Justices of the
Peace -

The Law Clerk reported that the appointment of Dr. Urquhart would have to be made by Order-in-Council. After a brief discussion it was moved by Mr. Finnie, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that a letter be prepared by the Legal Adviser to the Department of Justice requesting that Dr. Urquhart be appointed a Justice of the Peace with the power of two Justices of the Peace or as a Police Magistrate for the North West Territories, whichever that Department deemed most proper under the circumstances. Carried.

3. New Business -

(a) Church of England School -
Eskimo Point, Keewatin District -

It was moved by Dr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Finnie, that the Church of England School at Eskimo Point, Keewatin District, be given the usual school grant as from August 1927. Carried.

(c) Communications from David L. Tweedie
of Dundee, Scotland, on education -

Mr. Daly reported that the communications received from Mr. Tweedie were to the effect that the latter had worked out a time schedule for the operation of small schools. It was moved by Mr. Rowatt, seconded by Dr. Scott, that these communications be acknowledged and the writer informed that they had been distributed to the authorities having to do with education in the North West Territories. Carried.

(e) Sessions during summer months -

It was moved by Mr. Finnie, seconded by Mr. Rowatt, that no meetings of Council be held after May until the regular October meeting except at the special call of the Commissioner.

(b) Importation of Wood Alcohol
(canned heat) for Primus
stoves -

Colonel Starnes reported that the question of the importation into the North West Territories of wood alcohol in the form of canned heat was a rather difficult problem inasmuch as canned heat was used by the natives not only as fuel but as an intoxicant. Attention was drawn to the many forms in which alcohol might be obtained. The Secretary read a letter from Colonel Starnes dated the 12th February, 1930, together with the enclosed copy of a report submitted by Inspector Eames stationed at Herschel Island, on the alleged drinking of wood alcohol by the Eskimo. After the matter had been discussed, it was moved by Mr. Finnie, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that a circular letter be sent to the trading companies operating in the North West Territories, asking for information as to the amount of wood alcohol sold in the Territories and for their co-operation in the Government's effort to see that it was not put to an improper use, and at the same time warning them that if it were found that wood alcohol in its various forms was being used to any extent as an intoxicant, steps would have to be taken to restrict its importation into the Territories; also that no further action be taken for the time being in order to determine the result of the warning issued by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, referred to in Inspector Eames' report. Carried.

Council then adjourned.

H. McArthur
.....
Secretary.

A. B. Cory
.....
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE AND FISHERIES
Marine Branch
Ottawa

2nd April, 1930.

Dear Sir,

Proposed radio stations Coronation
Gulf and Chesterfield Inlet, N.W.T.

With reference to the discussions between the technical officers of our respective departments, in regard to the proposed establishment of radio communication with Coronation and with Chesterfield Inlet, I beg to state that this Department is interested in the proposals, to the extent that both places being located on salt water, one of the functions they could perform would be "aid to navigation", and, further, they would provide two useful weather observatory stations for our meteorological service.

We understand that all supplies for Coronation have to be handled by ship from Vancouver, and as such this work could well be undertaken by our Pacific coast division, while the Chesterfield Station would fit in with our Hudson Bay system.

Such being the case, this Department is prepared to undertake the erection and operation of the stations, provided funds are made available.

Chesterfield Inlet -

At Chesterfield Inlet we would propose a small station of sufficient power to connect direct with our terminal station at Fort Churchill to the south, and also with the Nottingham Island station of the Hudson Straits chain, and for your information I would add that both Fort Churchill and Cape Hope's Advance of the Hudson Straits chain connect direct with our short wave station here in Ottawa.

The apparatus proposed would be equipped with a radiotelephone broadcasting attachment and could be used to broadcast messages to anyone possessing a radio receiving equipment with a range of approximately 100 miles.

The estimated cost of installing the station at Chesterfield, including operation for the current fiscal year, is \$21,500, divided -

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| Construction | - | \$17,000 |
| Maintenance | - | 4,500 |

This contemplates the erection of a building to accommodate the operator and apparatus.

Coronation -

For Coronation Gulf we would propose a station of adequate power to give permanent communication, day and night, with all the stations of your chain from Fort Smith north. It

would also, under normal conditions, provide communication with Fort Churchill on the long wave and by short wave when static is present in the summer months.

We would suggest, for your consideration, the desirability of equipping this transmitter with a radiotelephone attachment, so that it could broadcast messages, news, etc., to any persons within two hundred miles, who happen to have a radio receiving equipment.

The estimated cost of the Coronation station, covering apparatus, as above, and maintenance for the balance of the fiscal year, is \$41,200, divided -

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|--------------|---|----------|
| Construction | - | \$32,000 |
| Maintenance | - | 9,200 |

This estimate is subject to minor modification in regard to transportation charges.

We are still waiting a definite quotation from the Hudson Bay Company in this reference. If, in the meantime, it is necessary for you to have a final estimate, I would ask that the figure be made \$45,000. Also, if the radiotelephone proposal appears to you to be useful, add a further \$1,500 for apparatus and transportation thereof.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) E. Hawken

Acting Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister,
Department of the Interior,
Ottawa.

(Commander Edwards stated to the North West Territories Council, Seventeenth Session, that the cost of a radio station at Herschel would be approximately the same as that estimated for Chesterfield.)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
Office of the Commissioner

Ottawa,
February 12th, 1930.

Ref. No. C. 11-44-3
C. 11-44-1

Dear Sir,

Alleged drinking of Wood Alcohol
by Eskimos at Cape Krusenstern
and Rymer Point

I enclose correspondence I have received from the Officer Commanding the Mounted Police at Edmonton, on the above mentioned subject, and being reports of Inspector A. N. Eames and Constable R. S. Wild, dated at Herschel Island, November 12th, and Bernard Harbour, August 21st, 1929, respectively.

The orders of the Commissioner of the North West Territories, dated the 28th of August, 1924, and 24th of September, 1924, prohibiting importation, manufacture or possession of certain preparations therein mentioned, do not specifically refer to wood alcohol or the other items mentioned by Inspector Eames, and perhaps you will consider the advisability of prohibiting them except, at any rate, under permit.

The C.I.B. Circular referred to by Inspector Eames dated at Edmonton, the 17th of April, 1929, has reference to a long list of articles sometimes sold to Indians, and, in connection with which, all traders in the North have been advised to refrain from selling except under exceptional circumstances, such as under a Doctor's order, etc.

In connection with this C.I.B. Circular, the Police were instructed that if these warnings were ignored, prosecutions were to be instituted, but even this particular list does not include the four items mentioned by Inspector Eames.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) Cortlandt Starnes,
Commissioner.

The Director of the
North West Territories & Yukon,
Transportation Building,
OTTAWA,
Ontario.

"G" Division
Edmonton.

WESTERN ARCTIC SUB-DISTRICT
Herschel Island, Y.T.

November 12th, 1929.

Confidential

The Officer Commanding,
"G" Division, R.C.M. Police,
EDMONTON.

Sir,

Re - Alleged drinking Wood Alcohol
by Eskimos

I have the honour to forward a report from
Constable R. S. Wild dated 21st August 1929, dealing with the
alleged drinking of wood alcohol by natives.

Examination of ship's manifests, to which
I have access as Sub-Collector of Customs, Department of
National Revenue, discloses that a large quantity of spirit is
imported into the Sub-District ostensibly to prime "Primus" stoves
with. As you are aware, the generator of a "Primus" stove usually
carbonizes if started with coal oil or high grade petroleum, so
that for some years, I am informed, white men have used imported
methyl hydrate, in the cup only, to ensure the rapid commencement
and certain continuance of the stove to function with coal oil
in the reservoir. The practice spread to the Eskimos and last
year to meet the demands of white men and natives the traders
brought in -

Methyl Hydrate
Condensed Heat (I presume this is "Canned Heat")
Methylated Spirits
Wood Alcohol.

I understand that the first three are all made from spirit of wine;
being, therefore, highly injurious to human beings if used as a
beverage. Wood alcohol has, I believe, been known, even when only
a small quantity was drunk, to render a man blind.

Constable Wild's further enquiries will no doubt
bring to light whether or not the Eskimos in the Eastern part of the
Sub-District are drinking the primer to any great extent. Constable
Wild's warnings may have the desired effect.

As far as I can see wood alcohol can be, and is,
brought into the country without let or hindrance; it is not amongst
the items listed in the C.I.B. Circular dated at Edmonton April 17th,
1929, and if it were the sale would apply to Indians only. I am
greatly in hope that the habit, assuming it exists, will be given up
after the warning, but should the drinking continue I can only
recommend that the authorities be asked to ban or regulate the sale
of wood alcohol in order to protect the natives from themselves.

A primer for "Primus" stoves is considered a necessity by white men.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

(Sgd.) A. N. Eames
(A. N. Eames) Insp.
Commanding Western Arctic Sub-Dist.

The Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Sir:

FORWARDED for your consideration and advice.
Also is attached Report as mentioned in the first paragraph
above.

Edmonton, Alberta,
January 23, 1930.

(Sgd.) A. E. Acland
A.E. Acland, Supt.,
Commanding "G" Division.

"G" Div. Ref.
257/304

Western Arctic Sub-District,
Bernard Harbour Detachment.

"G" Division
Edmonton.

Bernard Harbour, N.W.T.
August 21st, 1929.

The Officer Commanding,
Western Arctic Sub-District,
R.C. Mounted Police,
Herschel, Y.T.

Sir,

Re - Natives drinking Wood Alcohol.

I have the honour to report that I have received reliable information that the natives at Cape Krusenstern and Rymer Point, Victoria Land, during the past winter have taken to drinking wood alcohol. This has the same effect on them as ordinary alcohol or whisky, rendering them intoxicated and sleepy.

The first intimation received of this was during the present spring when I heard some natives talking amongst themselves regarding certain other natives at Cape Krusenstern having been seen lying helpless on the floor of their cabin with an empty bottle of wood alcohol alongside of them.

I made further enquiries both from the natives and from white men and all confirm the information received. Mr. Peter Norberg informed me that last winter a native went to him to buy wood alcohol presumably for use in the primus lamp, he sold him a small quantity. Later another native came in for some more, which was also sold to him. A short time after this a third native came in and asked for wood alcohol and when a small quantity was tendered him asked for all that was left in the can, approximately half a gallon. This Mr. Norberg refused him, and then the native made every endeavour to coax Mr. Norberg to make a trade, offering finally one white fox pelt for the half gallon. Mr. Norberg states that he was then suspicious that the natives were using the wood alcohol for other purposes than in the primus lamps, and refused to sell them any more.

As far as can be learned the wood alcohol which they have already obtained and drunk was traded from the Hudson's Bay Company's Post at Cape Krusenstern, but I am making further enquiries from other traders in the district to ascertain if they have sold any quantities of wood alcohol which would lead them to suppose that it was used for other purposes than in primus lamps.

I can find no mention of wood alcohol in any of the lists of medicines, etc., which are prohibited of sale to natives, and would respectfully request that I be advised as to whether or not this article is on the banned list, if such is not the case I would strongly recommend that action be taken to have wood alcohol included in the prohibited articles.

As far as can be ascertained at present, the native responsible for the introduction of the habit of drinking wood alcohol into this district is an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, and I am taking steps to warn both the native himself and all traders in the district that this is a dangerous habit and must be stopped immediately.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Richard S. Wild

Richard S. Wild, Const.

Reg. No. 7536, i/c Detachment.