



SPECIAL SESSION

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Thirty-fifth (Special) Session of the Northwest Territories Council, held on Wednesday, the Twenty-fourth day of August, 1932, in the office of the Commissioner, Mr. H. H. Rowatt, at Ottawa.

PRESENT -

Mr. H. H. Rowatt (In the Chair)	-	Commissioner
Mr. R. A. Gibson	-	Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Chas. Camsell	-	Member of Council
Mr. K. R. Daly	-	" " "
Major General J. H. MacBrien	-	" " "
Mr. J. F. Doyle	-	Acting Secretary.

IN ATTENDANCE -

Dr. E. L. Stone	-	Director of Medical Services, Dept. of Indian Affairs.
Dr. J. J. Heagerty	-	Chief Executive Assistant, Dept. of Pensions and National Health.
Mr. H. E. Hume	-	Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.
Mr. J. Lorne Turner	-	Assistant Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.

1. The Commissioner explained that the reason why an Agenda had not been sent out was that the meeting was of a more or less informal nature to discuss matters on which the Minister of the Interior was anxious to have the views of the Northwest Territories Council at an early date.
2. Fort Smith Hospital Grant - File 204.

Mr. Rowatt said that Bishop Breynat had applied for a guaranteed minimum revenue for the Fort Smith hospital in order that he might be enabled to keep the hospital in good condition. Mr. Gibson said that between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Indian Affairs more than \$8,000 per annum had been expended by the two Departments on the operation of this hospital and that \$8,000 was the minimum at which Bishop Breynat considered he could carry on.

Dr. Stone explained that the arrangement, so far as the Department of Indian Affairs is concerned, is that the hospitals at Fort Smith and Simpson are to take in destitute Indians - "destitute" really meaning an Indian suffering from an incurable disease and unable to carry on the normal activities of an Indian, his Department paying \$1.50 per day for each Indian and supplying drugs. In addition to this the Interior Department pays .50¢ per day for each patient whether Indian, half-breed or white. He said that within the last three years the Indian Affairs Department had paid to the Fort Smith hospital approximately \$9,000 - \$12,000 - and \$8,000 respectively, adding that beginning with the month of April of the present fiscal year the expenditure of the Department of Indian Affairs for the patients in the Fort Smith hospital was on the basis of \$8,000 per annum, but that each month the amount had been reduced which was the reason for Bishop Breynat fearing that he would be financially unable to look after the Fort Smith hospital.

In

In answer to a query Dr. Stone said that he thought that it would require at least \$8,000 to continue the hospital in operation. It was reported that the Interior Department expenditures in connection with the Fort Smith hospital during the past three years were \$3,427 - \$5,647.50, and \$4,149 respectively. It was stated that the revenue from both Departments would constitute practically the total revenue of the hospital, the only exception probably being in the case of a few patients that could afford to pay for their care.

Dr. Stone thought that it would cost the Government more than \$2.00 per day per patient to operate the hospital itself and Dr. Heagerty said that his Department figured the minimum cost per patient at \$2.75 to \$3.00 per day, adding that he did not think the Fort Smith hospital could be operated by the Government for \$8,000 per year, and that it would pay the Government to carry on under the present arrangement guaranteeing a minimum revenue of \$8,000 per annum, the amount asked for by Bishop Breynat.

It was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by General MacBrien, that -

"The Council having considered the request of Bishop Breynat for a guaranteed minimum contribution from the Dominion Government towards the maintenance of the Fort Smith hospital, begs to recommend, having in view on the one hand the necessities of the widely scattered population - both white and native - served by this hospital, and on the other hand the urgent necessity for economy of administration, that it is advisable to guarantee the revenue of \$8,000 per annum to enable the continuation of the hospital, the understanding being that the local government doctors shall continue to determine the number of patients to be admitted for treatment and the length of stay in each case, the per diem rates for treatment of patients to remain the same as heretofore, the qualifications of the staff of the hospital to be satisfactory to the Departments."

Carried.

3. Thelon Game Sanctuary - File 5169

Mr. Gibson mentioned that Bishop Breynat was again urging that a portion of the western end of the Thelon Game Sanctuary be withdrawn and made available as a fishing ground for the natives. He also mentioned that parties were anxious to go into the Sanctuary for prospecting purposes and that it was possible that the area which Bishop Breynat wanted withdrawn was the same area in which the prospectors and mining companies were interested. He said the Minister would like to deal with the matter at an early date and wanted the views of the Northwest Territories Council.

Dr. Camsell said that he could not add anything to the opinion he formerly expressed with regard to the opening up of this area for prospecting. In answer to a query, however, he said that the mineral occurrences in the Sanctuary are supposed to be at the western end of the Sanctuary.

General MacBrien mentioned that he had received a report during the morning in connection with an investigation into a murder case in the Sanctuary area but that the report did not deal with the suggestion that the boundaries of the Sanctuary be changed. He promised to check up on the matter.

Mr. Hume suggested that the needs of the natives for fishing rights in the Sanctuary could be met by issuing permits, which could be done under the existing regulations.

After

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Daly, that the suggestion should be referred to Mr. A. L. Cumming, also that Mr. Hume discuss it with Mr. A. S. Williams of the Indian Affairs Department. Carried.

It was further decided to get in all the reports that have been asked for bearing on the general question so that a statement could be made to the Minister.

4. Buffalo meat for schools and hospitals; also  
renewal of grant to Fort Smith  
School - Files 6897 & 78

Mr. Gibson said that Bishop Breynat had applied for a renewal of the grant to the Fort Smith school on the same basis as at present in force; also for a supply of buffalo meat on the same conditions as last year.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell that the Northwest Territories Council recommend the renewal of the grants to the Fort Smith School and the furnishing of buffalo meat to hospitals and schools, as was done last year. Carried.

5. Relief to Eskimos in Baker Lake District. - File 7239

Mr. Gibson mentioned that the suggestion had been made that fishing nets be supplied to Eskimos in the Baker Lake District who found it hard to maintain themselves.

Dr. Camsell said that this was a practice formerly carried on by the Hudson's Bay Company and the members of Council present expressed approval of the suggestion.

6. Caribou skins. - File 7459

It was mentioned that the Empire Marketing Board through Sir Stephen Tallents, had enquired as to the possibility of an empire source of supply of reindeer skins required for the manufacture of gloves. Formerly the supply had been secured from Russia but apparently the Soviet Government propose having reindeer skin gloves manufactured in that country and exported as a manufactured product. Consequently, the British manufacturers are very anxious to ascertain whether reindeer skins might be obtained from another source.

It was pointed out that so far as the reindeer herd was concerned it would be years before it would reach the stage where arrangements for the disposal of the hides would be warranted and that the suggestion had been made that possibly caribou skins might do equally well.

Doubt was expressed as to the advisability of furnishing sample caribou skins to the Marketing Board as these hides were very valuable as native clothing.

Mr. Gibson mentioned that as a result of a demand for young caribou skins from the Yukon Territory the Yukon Territorial Council passed an Ordinance prohibiting the killing of young caribou.

After discussion, it was moved by General MacBrien, seconded by Mr. Daly, that no change be made in the Ordinance prohibiting the export of caribou skins from the Northwest Territories and that in the interest of the native population Council go on record as being opposed to furnishing sample caribou skins for experimental purposes. Carried.

Council then adjourned.

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Acting Secretary.

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Commissioner.