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COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES.

Minutes of the Eleventh Session of the Council held on Wednesday, the 6th November, 1929, in the office of the Commissioner, W. W. Cory, C.M.G., at Ottawa.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. A. Gibson (in the Chair)	-	Deputy Commissioner.
Dr. Charles Camsell	-	Member of Council
Mr. H. H. Rowatt	-	" " "
Colonel Cortlandt Starnes	-	" " "
Mr. O. S. Finnie	-	" " " and Director, N.W.T. & Y. Br.
Major D. L. McKeand	-	Secretary.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. K. R. Daly	-	Legal Adviser
Mr. W. M. Cory	-	Assistant Legal Adviser.

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1. Confirmation of Minutes -

Mr. Finnie reported that there was a typographical error in the copies of the Minutes of the Tenth Session sent to the members of the Council. He suggested that the following be added after the word "prospecting" in the sixth line of recommendation (8) page 3 of the Minutes "and may kill game therein during the open season for food purposes", and that the words "and may take caribou and moose for food purposes" be struck out. It was moved by Colonel Starnes and seconded by Mr. Rowatt that with these changes the Minutes be confirmed.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

(a) Fixing of Legal Time Zones in the North West Territories -

By unanimous consent it was agreed that the Legal Adviser should draft an ordinance along the lines of previous discussions, and that the matter should be brought up again.

(b) Consideration of Recommendations submitted by Mr. O. S. Finnie following his inspection of the Mackenzie District during July and August, 1929 -

(1) Draft Memorandum to Council amending the North West Game Regulations.

Colonel Starnes brought with him the attached memorandum prepared by Inspector A. H. Joy, in which the following queries were made regarding the proposed changes in the Game Regulations:-

(i) Does the proposed open season for lynx, marten, mink and fisher cover the whole of the North West Territories?

(ii) Are there to be different open seasons for fox in the North West Territories? and

(iii) Is there any limit to the number of moose or caribou that may be killed for personal use or sale?

Mr. Finnie stated in explanation -

(i) That the new open season on lynx, marten, mink and fisher would cover the whole of the North West Territories; also

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(ii) That since the last session of Council he had given further consideration to the matter of open season for blue and white fox and had deemed it advisable to make a change in his recommendation with respect thereto. Instead of dividing the trapping areas into three zones, viz.,

(1) From the 60th parallel of north latitude to the Arctic Circle.

(2) From the Arctic Circle to the Arctic coast.

(3) North of the Arctic coast.

it was considered better to make two zones only, viz.,

(1) South of the timber line, and

(2) North of the timber line.

The open season in the southern zone to remain as at present, viz.,

From 1st November to 31st March,

and the open season in the northern zone to be advanced two weeks, viz.,

From 15th November to 31st March.

The timber line or northern limit of wooded country is readily identified on the ground, and the proposed open season in these two zones is in conformity with the wishes and representations of the trappers.

Mr. Finnie further stated -

(iii) That there was no fixed limit to the number of moose and caribou that might be killed in the open season so long as it was all used for food purposes. Neither was there any objection to securing sufficient meat in the open season to last throughout the year. Meat so obtained might be sold at any time of the year.

Mr. Gibson expressed the opinion that the fact of Inspector Joy being in doubt as to the intent and scope of the draft Memorandum to Council, would indicate the need of a full explanatory memorandum. He suggested that this be prepared and sent to each member of Council, with a chart showing the new open seasons, and that these be placed in the hands of all those responsible for the enforcement of the Game Regulations. Mr. Finnie agreed to see that this would be done.

Following a rather full discussion, it was moved by Dr. Camsell and seconded by Colonel Starnes, that the draft Memorandum to Council be recommended for the Minister's approval and signature.

(10) Game Wardens and Fire Rangers.

Mr. Finnie's recommendation with respect to the desirability of providing for additional fire rangers and game wardens was read. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the total governmental expenditure in the North West Territories was already high

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and that it might be difficult to obtain an increased appropriation for that purpose. The effectiveness of appointing a few wardens was questioned; the possibility of cutting down exploratory work and making use of the money so released for the purpose of providing a warden staff was brought up, and the question was raised as to whether the situation with respect to the poisoning of fur bearing animals might automatically adjust itself if informers were given a share of the amount realized from the sale of confiscated pelts. Colonel Starnes said that his officers could keep a check on the amount of poison sold at Edmonton drug stores, and thereby keep tab to a certain extent on the use of poison in the North West Territories. It was agreed that an official communication would be sent to Colonel Starnes regarding this matter. After a fairly full discussion of all the above points, it was moved by Dr. Camsell and seconded by Mr. Rowatt, that an item be included in the draft estimates for the fiscal year 1930-31, and if funds could be obtained that favourable consideration be given to Mr. Finnie's recommendation, the intention being that three wardens should be appointed as a start.

(11) Government Experimental Fur Farms.

Mr. Finnie's recommendation that an officer be appointed to conduct a Government Demonstration Fur Farm was read. It was felt by Council that this matter was one more particularly for the consideration of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Indian Affairs, and it was moved by Colonel Starnes and seconded by Mr. Rowatt, that the matter be taken up with the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Hospital Grants and Equipment -

By unanimous consent consideration of this subject was deferred until Dr. Scott was present.

3. New Business.

(a) Provision for the protection of orphans, demented or insane persons, illegitimate and neglected children -

Mr. Finnie stated he was approached last summer by two members of the Roman Catholic clergy at Fort Smith in connection with the care of backward, orphaned or neglected children beyond the age of 15 years. The Government makes a per capita grant of $145 per annum for the maintenance of destitute children between the ages of 7 and 15 years; also a grant of $80 per annum for the maintenance of younger destitute orphaned children. The reverend gentlemen pointed out that many of these children were not fitted to take their places in the world at that age and it was undesirable to permit them, particularly the girls, to leave the Missions at that time. The Church was prepared to continue caring for them but required financial aid for the maintenance of these children until the age of 21 years was reached.

With respect to the insane - Mr. Finnie pointed out that under the provisions of Order in Council (P.C. 1959) of the 21st September, 1922, the Commissioner may remove and confine the insane in the following designated asylums situate at Ponoka, Alberta; Battleford, Saskatchewan; Brandon and Selkirk, Manitoba.

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After the discussion which followed, it was moved by Colonel Starnes and seconded by Dr. Camsell that the Pension Law be studied and the Legal Adviser instructed to draft an ordinance along similar lines providing for the payment of grants to aid in caring for orphans and neglected children up to the age of 21 years.

(b) Legalizing the process of adoption of Eskimo children -

It was moved by Colonel Starnes and seconded by Mr. Finnie, that the Legal Adviser draft an ordinance providing for the legalizing of adoption of Eskimo children.

(c) and (d) Miner's Lien Act and Woodsman's Lien Act -

It was moved by Mr. Rowatt and seconded by Mr. Finnie, that the Legal Adviser draft up-to-date ordinances for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

Council then adjourned.

D. J. McDonald
Secretary.

Commissioner.

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Memorandum to:
The Commissioner.

Sir,

I have perused the recommendations made by Mr. Finnie to the North West Territories Council on the 22nd inst., and respectfully beg to draw your attention to the following points for consideration.

In the Regulations for the protection of game in the North West Territories, which are now in effect, Section 2 provides a fifteen days longer season for Lynx north of the Arctic circle than South of the Arctic circle. The recommendation made recently by Mr. Finnie in paragraph No. 2 that the season for marten, mink, fisher and lynx be extended from February 28th and March 15th to March 31st, is apparently intended to cover the whole of the North West Territories, but does not state so definitely.

Apropos of further recommendations made in paragraph No. 3: Is it intended to have three variations in dates for foxes in the N.W. Territories, viz, South of Arctic circle November 1st to February 28th; north of Arctic circle and South of Continental coastline November 1st to March 15th; and north of main continent November 15th to March 31st. It seems strange, but may be true, that foxes on the Western Arctic mainland, where white trappers are concentrated, should be prime fifteen days earlier than on the more northerly islands. Taking the continental coastline as a delimitation gives trappers in the Western Arctic a considerable advantage over those in the southern half of Baffin Island; Again, trappers on Bellat Strait, Boothia Peninsula, would have an advantage over those on King William Island, although it is generally conceded that foxes are not prime in the Eastern Arctic before November 15th.

With regard to paragraph 5 in the same recommendations: Is it intended to permit people with good cold storage facilities to obtain enough meat during the open season to last them throughout the year, and for barter in close season, or is it intended for barter and possession of game in open season only as provided for in Sec. 8 of the N.W. Territories Game Act?

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) A. H. JOY
(A. H. Joy) Inspector,
O.C. Eastern Arctic Sub. Dist.