

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- AGENDA -

Wednesday, 28th September, 1932.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

- (a) Thirty-fourth Session - 1st June, 1932.
(Amendment suggested by Fisheries Department).
- (b) Thirty-fifth (Special) Session - 24th August, 1932.

2. Matters of Urgent Importance -

- (a) Brief verbal report from Officer in Charge Eastern Arctic Expedition, 1932.
- (b) Thelon Game Sanctuary -
Mr. A. M. Narraway's photographs.
- (c) Game Preserves and registered traplines.
- (d) Reindeer Policy -
Brief discussion on "Summary of Report on Hearings of the Reindeer Committee in Washington, D.C., February-March, 1931."
- (e) Convention of Medical Officers, Mackenzie District, 1933.
 - (i) Distribution and control of Eskimo relief.
 - (ii) Destitute Quebec Eskimo policy.
- (f) Wood Alcohol -
Consumption by natives.
- (g) Disposal of seized firearms.
- (h) Providing school books for children in outlying districts.
- (i) Policy re loaning Arctic films.
- (j) Coroners' fees.
- (k) Medical Officers.
- (l) Permits to take beaver.

3. Items to be dealt with at later session -

- (a) School Grants -
Grant to Shingle Point Residential School (Anglican).
- (b) Importation of Reindeer -
 - (i) Dr. Urquhart's report.
 - (ii) Number of females to be delivered.
- (c) Fort Smith Portage Road Franchise.
- (d) Insurance Agents' Registration.
- (e) Aeroarctic Society Subscription.

- (f) Export of walrus tusks -
(Report not received from Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection).
- (g) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
Quarantine. (Still before Department of Justice).
- (h) Keewatin Game Preserve -
(R.C.M. Police Report just recently received - has not been sufficiently considered.)
- (i) Northern Waterways Limited - Incorporation
(Before Department of Justice).
- (j) Relief Expedition for Dr. H.K.E. Krueger.
- (k) Northwest Game Regulations -
Petition from residents Reliance District.
- (l) Petition to the Minister for change in
administration Mackenzie District.
- (m) Petition to the Minister for Game Preserves -
Mackenzie delta and Arctic coast.
- (n) Petition from Eskimo.
- (o) Possibility of supplying additional medical officers without increasing personnel.
- (p) Bills of Sale Ordinance -
(Awaiting report from Mr. A. L. Cumming).
- (q) Vital Statistics Ordinance -
(Amendment not ready).
- (r) Issue of liquor permits by agents at Edmonton, Alta., and Fort Smith, N.W.T.
- (s) Application of G. D. Murphy to open post
at Cameron Bay.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

Minutes of the Thirty-sixth session of the Northwest Territories Council, held on Wednesday, the Twenty-eighth day of September, 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. Charles Camsell	-	Member of Council
Mr. K. R. Daly	-	" "
Major General J. H. MacBrien	-	" "
Major D. L. McKeand	-	Secretary.

IN ATTENDANCE -

Dr. J. S. Douglas	-	Department of Pensions & National Health.
Mr. H. E. Hume	-	Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.
Mr. A. M. Narraway	-	Associate Director of Topographical Surveys and Chief Aerial Surveys Engineer.
Mr. J. P. Richards	-	N.W.T. Division, Dominion Lands Administration.

1. Confirmation of Minutes. -

- (a) Thirty-fourth Session - 1st June, 1932.
(Amendment suggested by Fisheries Department).
- (b) Thirty-fifth (Special) Session - 24th August, 1932.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Casey of the Department of Fisheries had suggested that the third paragraph of Item 2 (a) in the Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Session of Council, held on the 2nd June, 1932, be deleted and the following substituted therefor:-

"Mr. Casey explained that the regulations for the protection of walrus were adopted pursuant to representations from local officers of the Northwest Territories Branch of the Department of Interior; of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and after several conferences with officers of those Departments having intimate knowledge of local conditions; also, after a full discussion with officials of the Hudson's Bay Company.

"He said his Department would be glad to consider any suggestions from the Mounted Police or the Interior Department for any change in the regulations but until such were forthcoming it did not feel the request should be made. He pointed out that the Eskimos were allowed to kill seven animals per year and white men four animals per year under license."

It was pointed out that there was no material change, and it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell, that the Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Session, with the suggested amendment, and the Minutes of the Thirty-fifth (Special) Session be adopted. Carried.

2. Matters of Urgent Importance -

- (a) Brief verbal report from Officer in Charge Eastern Arctic Expedition, 1932. File 7367.

Major McKeand reported that the steamer "Ungava" was fairly well suited for work in the Arctic. He said that Captain T. F. Smellie was a master mariner - particularly well qualified to be in charge of navigation in connection with Arctic expeditions; that Mr. G. A. Woonton, the Secretary of the expedition, was an especially valuable man - a Master of Arts, and his special educational qualifications enabled him to make useful observations of the eclipse - Mr. Woonton's report will be in the form of a detailed description of the trip from Montreal to St. John's; that Dr. J. S. Douglas' services were invaluable during the whole voyage, both in connection with the treatment of those on board ship, and the white and Eskimo population at the various posts visited; that Inspector Wunsch was entirely devoted to his duty and that he had a difficult task to perform and would in due course be submitting his report to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; that Dr. J. S. West, Veterinarian, who went North especially to study diseases amongst Eskimo dogs and to inoculate them when necessary, was a very popular man on board; that the duties of Mr. Geo. Watson, an official of the Hudson's Bay Company, caused considerable delay at each post; and that Mr. W.M. Ritchie, who was in charge of transportation for the Hudson's Bay Company, had wide experience in transport work and was of special value in connection with the handling of Government freight. Major McKeand said that so far as he knew not a pound of freight was lost in the handling.

Major McKeand said that the expedition left Montreal on the 9th July and arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, on the 16th September, having covered over 9,000 miles, visiting posts serving approximately 3,800 Eskimos, or in other words, one-half the Eskimo population of the Dominion. He said there was little or no destitution amongst the Eskimos of the Eastern Arctic regions of the Northwest Territories, but that such was not the case in the Province of Quebec, in which Province he estimated \$10,000 was spent on relief last year. Major McKeand said that they found ice conditions unusually bad this year and that this was apparently the experience of all those familiar with conditions in the Canadian Arctic, the heavy polar ice near Bache Peninsula making it impossible to get the steamer close to the post. He added that he did not think it would have been possible to reach the Bache detachment even if the boat had arrived in the vicinity earlier in the season.

Major McKeand said that the Hudson's Bay Company's posts depended almost entirely on the supply of fox pelts, and that if the price of these furs went below a profitable mark, the Company might find it necessary to pull out of this area. He said that in such an event the Eskimos would be in a rather bad fix, as they had been educated to use white men's foods, clothing, rifles, etc., and would find it hard to re-adapt themselves to other conditions. He said that the Company had not been entirely responsible for the change in habits as the Eskimos had become used to the white men's way of living through contact with whalers and others.

Mr. Gibson said that everyone was glad that Major McKeand had returned safely and suggested that the various reports that would in due course be submitted by the officials participating in the expedition should be prepared in sufficient numbers so that copies might be furnished each member of Council. He said that he was mentioning the matter early so that additional copies could be struck off without extra work.

- (a) (i) Verbal Report of Dr. Douglas - File 7367.

The Commissioner asked Dr. Douglas whether he would care to add anything to Major McKeand's comments. Dr. Douglas remarked that there were comparatively few Eskimos living in the vicinity of the trading posts; consequently he did not feel that he had seen the natives living under customary conditions. He said there were a number of Eskimos temporarily around the posts living in tents and that he had examined these from a medical standpoint and added that he would endeavour to have his report ready at the earliest possible date. In answer to an enquiry Dr. Douglas said that in his report he would deal with the question of distribution of medical supplies at the various posts.

- (b) Thelon Game Sanctuary - File 5169.
Mr. A. M. Narraway's
aerial photographs.

Mr. Gibson said that this item had been placed on the agenda in the hope that Dr. Camsell could express some definite opinion as to whether further investigations of a geological nature could be made in the Thelon Sanctuary by qualified observers, so that requests for the opening up of the area for prospecting might be definitely dealt with. Dr. Camsell explained that his difficulty was that there was no one on his staff who had visited the Sanctuary and none of this year's parties operating in the Northwest Territories were working in the Thelon area. Dr. Camsell asked whether there was any possibility of extending the aerial photography that had been carried out in the vicinity of the Thelon Sanctuary. Mr. Narraway said that it would be quite a simple matter to do this and he exhibited a number of photographs that had already been taken, indicating the location of the areas photographed on a map.

Dr. Camsell thought that it would be inadvisable to attempt to define or change the boundaries of the Sanctuary until an examination had been made. He remarked that the climate of Churchill and Great Bear Lake was approximately the same and that the aeroplane companies operating in the Great Bear Lake District were considering the matter of routing their planes from Churchill so as to shorten the 'blank' seasons in the spring and fall during which aeroplanes cannot fly into the Great Bear Lake district. In the event of the adoption of such a route he thought it probable that the line of flight would be over the Sanctuary.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that the only alternative to an examination of the Thelon Sanctuary was the issue of permits to prospect, the difficulty in the way of the adoption of this latter suggestion being that if a permit were issued to a responsible company, the Department could not very well refuse to issue permits to individual prospectors who might have to live off the country, thereby defeating the purpose for which the Sanctuary was created.

Dr. Camsell suggested that the Northwest Territories Council go on record as favouring a geological investigation of the Thelon Sanctuary area, the resolution to be forwarded to him as Deputy Minister of Mines. It was thereupon moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by General MacBrien, that before giving favourable consideration to any application for prospecting permits in the Thelon Game Sanctuary, the Department of Mines be requested to make a survey of the mineral possibilities of the Sanctuary with a view to defining more specifically its boundaries.

- (c) Game Preserves and registered trap-lines - Files 2750
5744 & 6281.

Mr. Hume reviewed briefly for the information of Council the various suggestions made with respect to the boundaries of the game preserves illustrating the proposed additions and withdrawals on a map. Afterwards he suggested that Mr. Richards prepare a precis of the various suggestions illustrated by a map, copies of which could be sent to each member of Council.

Mr. Gibson mentioned that former Inspector Moran favoured registered trap-lines and that Inspector Parker of the Indian Affairs Department covered the same matter in his report which he submitted a few years ago. He read extracts from both reports, as well as from a report submitted by Inspector Fletcher of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and expressed the opinion that as both matters were so closely interlocked, they should be considered at the one time. General MacBrien said that Inspectors Fletcher and Wunsch are both in the city at the present time and offered to have them call on Mr. Hume. Mr. Hume said he would be glad indeed to have an opportunity of discussing the matter with them.

Mr. Gibson added that with the above matters was also tied in the question of relief. Major McKeand commented on the issue of relief rations in the Eastern Arctic pointing out the objections to having more than one relief authority at each point. He added that the policy of the Hudson's Bay Company is to keep the natives away from the trading posts and to keep down the amount of relief furnished to a minimum, even then furnishing arms and ammunition rather than rations.

After discussion it was agreed that the matter should be taken up informally with the Department of Indian Affairs and brought up at a later meeting.

- (d) Reindeer Policy -
 Brief discussion on "Summary of Report on Hearings of the Reindeer Committee in Washington, D.C., February-March, 1931." Files 4819 & 7305.

Mr. Rowatt said that rather voluminous reports of the proceedings of the Committee appointed at Washington to look into matters affecting the reindeer industry in Alaska had been submitted to the Department and had been summarized by Mr. Hume. Copies of the summary were struck off so that they might be available for the information of the members of Council. Mr. Rowatt said that the purpose of supplying these summaries was in order that the members of Council might familiarize themselves with some of the problems that would probably arise in connection with the herd en route to the Mackenzie District, and to facilitate the adoption of a definite Canadian policy. Mr. Hume offered to see that extra copies were mailed to both Dr. Camsell and General MacBrien.

The United States is continuing investigations in Alaska and the Canadian Minister at Washington will send us any further reports.

- (e) Convention of Medical Officers,
 Mackenzie District, 1933 - Files 7320 & 5917

Discussion postponed until Dr. Stone is present.

- (i) Distribution and control of Eskimo relief - File 7257

Dealt with under "C".

- (ii) Destitute Quebec Eskimo policy - File 734.

It was reported that the Minister of the Interior was in communication with the Minister of Finance with a view to seeing whether some arrangements might be made for relief advances during the present year, also that Mr. Hume was going into the matter thoroughly and that a further report would be submitted to Council at a later meeting.

- (f) Wood Alcohol -
 Consumption by natives. File 5538.

The Secretary reported that only one instance of the consumption of wood alcohol by Eskimos had been reported, that report coming from Corporal Wilde. He added that there was no

record in the Eastern Arctic of Eskimos consuming wood alcohol. It was agreed that the item should be left off the agenda.

(g) Disposal of seized firearms - File 7447.

It was stated that an automatic pistol had been seized by the Police, and the question had been raised as to what the policy should be with respect to the disposal of seized firearms. In answer to a suggestion that these arms be turned over to the Police, General MacBrien said that they endeavoured to standardize on the type of arms used and that consequently seized arms would not be of much use to them. It was suggested that possibly these arms might be assembled at one point and turned over to the Government Salvage Officer for disposal, say once a year, to persons holding permits. After a brief discussion it was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that the matter of the disposal of seized arms be left in the hands of the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

(h) Providing school books for children
in outlying districts - Files 7472 & 17-2

It was reported that an application had been received from a resident of the Northwest Territories located too far distant from any school to enable him to send his children to school, for a small supply of school books; also that the Department of Education of Ontario had been consulted and that that Department encouraged to a considerable degree education in outlying districts. Mr. Hume said that the amount involved in this case was very small and that the books requested had been ordered and mailed to the District Agent at Fort Smith. After discussion it was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by Mr. Daly, that the matter of supplying books in cases of this kind be left in the hands of the Church authorities who were looking after educational matters in the Territories, it being understood that the Department of Interior would reimburse the Church authorities for the small outlay incurred in this connection, also that Mr. McDougal should be instructed to turn the present shipment over to the educational authorities of the Church for transmission to the applicant.

(i) Policy re loaning Arctic films - File 2729-5. 2979

It was pointed out that a number of motion picture films had been taken in the Arctic primarily for record purposes; that applications for the loan of these films have been favourably considered from time to time, but that recently the question of long term loans had presented itself to the Department of the Interior. Particular mention was made of an application from the Department of Education of the City of Los Angeles for the loan of films for a period of approximately one year. It was pointed out that the chances were that when the films were returned they would be of little further use. After discussion it was recommended that films of this type be taken off the catalogue of available motion picture films issued by the Motion Picture Bureau and that a table of precedence in the matter of loan be prepared by the Department of the Interior to facilitate consideration of various applications. It was also agreed that there would be no justification for loaning films of this type to the Los Angeles Department of Education for the long term desired.

(j) Coroners' fees - File 15.

Discussion deferred.

(k) Medical Officers - File 5917.

Mr. Gibson brought up the question of the salaries of medical officers saying that the Civil Service Commission had suggested that instead of following the present practice of having several departments contribute towards the salary of a doctor that one department only pay his full salary, it being understood that where necessary the doctor should look after the requirements of

other Federal Government Departments as well, and that these other departments recoup the Department to which the doctor is attached. He said that he had hoped Dr. Stone would have been present so that some progress might be made with the discussion.

It was mentioned that one advantage of having a doctor's compensation paid by more than one Department is that the departments subscribing might expect to receive a little better attention to their business from the doctor than would be the case if he were being paid entirely by or through another Department. It was thought, however, that there would be no objection to doctors being paid by the Department of Health and being assigned to the work of one or more other Government Departments. Major McKeand is to continue discussion with Dr. Stone.

(1) Permits to take beaver - File 4483.

Mr. Hume reported that if the Department is not going to renew permits to Indians to take beaver the decision should be made known at once. He asked whether Council favoured issuing similar permits to white trappers.

It seemed to be the general opinion of Council that there would be no question about granting the Indians the same measure of consideration as has been extended in the past. As for white trappers, Mr. Gibson pointed out that the sole reason for the issue of permits to Indians to take beaver was because of destitution, and thought that unless it could be shown that white residents were in need of relief there would be no need or justification for any change in the present practice. This opinion was supported by Council and Mr. Hume is to convey the decision to District Agent McDougal.

The meeting then adjourned.

H. H. Rowatt

 Commissioner.

A. J. McKeand

 Secretary.