

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Sixteenth Session of the Council
held on Tuesday, the 18th March, 1930, in the
office of the Commissioner, Mr. W. W. Cory, C.M.G.,
at Ottawa.

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. K. R. Daly	-	Legal Adviser
Mr. G. P. Mackenzie	-	N.W.T. & Y. Branch.

1. Unfinished Business -

(a) Hospital Grants and Equipment -

Following a rather full discussion it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that when the resident medical officer at Aklavik, Dr. Urquhart, approves as adequate the plans of the Roman Catholic hospital proposed for Aklavik, and when satisfactory progress towards completion has been made, steps be taken to supply the hospital equipment which has already been recommended by Dr. Urquhart, - it being understood that this equipment will be shipped North before the close of navigation this year if it seems likely that the new hospital will be completed before the navigation season of 1931. Carried.

(b) Dominion Government employees trading and trafficking in fur in the North West Territories -

Mr. Finnie read the following proposed amendment to the regulations respecting game in the North West Territories which had been drafted by the Legal Adviser:-

60. 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.

It was decided that this matter should be gone into further and a suitable recommendation to the Governor General in Council, for the signature of the Minister of Interior, drafted and submitted to the North West Territories Council at its next meeting.

- (c) Trading Posts - (1) Mouth of Burnside river,
 (2) Prince Albert sound,
 (3) Cumberland sound,
 (4) Netchelik (Koukdjuak) river,
 Foxe channel.

Mr. Finnie reported that applications had been received from the Hudson's Bay Company for permission to establish outposts at the mouth of Burnside river, Prince Albert sound, Cumberland sound and Netchelik (Koukdjuak) river, Foxe channel.

(1) Mouth of Burnside river -

Mr. Finnie reminded the members of Council present that some time ago the Hudson's Bay Company had applied for permission to establish a post at the mouth of the Burnside river; that this application had been rejected, and that last year the Dominion Explorers Limited, without securing the necessary permission from the Department to occupy the land, had established a radio station and aerial base at this point. He also reported that the departmental officers who spent some time in the vicinity of Bathurst Inlet last season expressed the opinion that the establishment of a post at Burnside river would not affect the migration of caribou as the caribou no longer passed close by this point. However, Council felt that in the interests of the Eskimo it would be advisable to discourage the establishment of additional trading posts in this part of the North West Territories, and inasmuch as the Dominion Explorers would, in the near future, likely be abandoning their post at Bathurst Inlet, it would be inadvisable to favourably consider the application of the Hudson's Bay Company. It was also decided that in the event of an application being received from the Canalaska Trading Company for permission to establish a trading post at the lower end of Bathurst Inlet, the same decision should apply.

(2) Prince Albert sound -

The members of Council were reminded that a few years ago the Hudson's Bay Company was asked to move its post at Fort Brabant, Prince Albert sound, and that they had met the department's wishes and transferred the post to Walker bay. It was pointed out that the present application was for permission to re-open a post in the area they had been asked to vacate, and after a brief discussion it was decided to refuse the application of the company to open a new temporary post at the head of Prince Albert sound.

(3) Cumberland sound -

After consideration of the application of the Hudson's Bay Company for permission to move their post at Blacklead island in Cumberland strait to the mainland about five miles distant, it was decided that inasmuch as the post would be serving the same area there was no reason why the permission asked for might not be granted. It was agreed, however, that in replying to the letter from Mr. C. H. French, Fur Trade Commissioner, he should be warned that the new post must be located as close to the present one as possible - not more than seven miles away.

(4) Netchelik (Koukdjuak) river,
Foxe channel -

During discussion of this application it was pointed out that there was no river known as "Netchelik" shown on the map. It was thought the river referred to was "Koukdjuak" which drains Nettilling lake. Although there were no natives to serve at the site suggested, undoubtedly the company would move the natives to hunt and trap for them; in fact, Mr. French intimated as much in his letter; (2) that the tide at this point leaves miles of shore line exposed; therefore the point at which the post would be located would be some distance from navigation; (3) that it is the home and nesting place of the blue goose. After careful consideration it was decided that it would be inadvisable to grant the permission asked for.

2. New Business -

(a) Agenda for North West Territories Investigating Officers -

Mr. Finnie read a memorandum that he had prepared in connection with the proposed operations next season of Messrs. W.H.B. Hoare, J.Dewey Soper, L.D. Livingstone, L.T. Burwash, A.E. Porsild and R.T. Porsild (copy attached). The plans were approved by Council.

Council then adjourned.

A. J. McQuaid
.....
Secretary

A. J. McQuaid
.....
Commissioner

INVESTIGATORS:-

The following is a short synopsis of the proposed investigations to be made by our Investigating Officers during the coming year - for information and approval of Council.

18th March, 1930.

W. H. B. HOARE -

He has now submitted his report of the investigations carried on within the Thelon Game Sanctuary during the past two years and in order that the musk-ox and other game may be fully protected he recommends a warden be established on the main waterways one at each end of the Sanctuary. The first should be in the neighbourhood of Artillery lake where a warden and a native dog driver and assistant could make their permanent headquarters. A cabin should be built at this location. The second cabin should be placed at the east end of the Sanctuary in the last timber and a warden and native assistant should make their permanent headquarters there. Both wardens should patrol extensively and prevent as far as possible Indians and others from hunting in the Sanctuary. They should also take all means possible to control the wolf menace and twice a year each should make a patrol to the log cabin at the mouth of the Hanbury river. During the present year it is intended to build the cabin at or near Artillery lake and Mr. Hoare will be detailed on this work with Warden Knox.

J. DEWEY SOPER -

It is proposed to send Mr. Soper back to Baffin island to continue the scientific investigations carried on by him during the past few years. It is proposed to build him a house at Lake Harbour where he will make his headquarters for the next two years. After his departure the house may be occupied by a medical doctor who will probably be required at Lake Harbour by that time.

DR. L. D. LIVINGSTONE -

He is detailed for duty at Chesterfield. He leaves here for Churchill within the next few days and will patrol to Chesterfield by dogs, visiting all the Eskimo settlements enroute. He will probably also visit Baker lake before navigation opens. Later in the season he will come outside on the "Beothic" and proceed at once to Fort Smith, which settlement will be without a medical officer when Dr. MacDonald retires some time during the course of the present summer. It is proposed to advertise for a new medical officer who will accompany the "Beothic" north and who will remain at Chesterfield where a house and equipment have been provided.

L. T. BURWASH -

It is proposed to send Mr. Burwash to the Coppermine and other areas which are now under mining investigation. If there is any rush to the Coppermine reserve which will be open to staking on the 1st July, it is desirable that an experienced man like Mr. Burwash be on hand. It is hoped he may be able to reach his headquarters at the Coppermine by aeroplane. If it is at all possible, we also want him to investigate the statements made to the department regarding the final resting place of Sir John Franklin. This is in the vicinity of Victory point, on King William island, which no white man has visited during the summer since the Franklin tragedy. It is hoped we may be able to have Mr. Burwash make an examination of this area while the snow is off the ground, probably during August 1930.

A. E. PORSILD -

Much interest has been shown in the development of the reindeer industry in Canada. In the interests of the natives it is particularly desirable that a herd be established somewhere in the Hudson Bay region. It is proposed to send Mr. A. E. Porsild there this summer to make an examination of the conditions and to ascertain whether there is sufficient food to maintain large herds of reindeer. The islands of Mansell, Coats and Southampton were designated some years ago as reserves for reindeer, musk-ox and other animals. For some years it has been our wish to have these islands, particularly Coats, examined with a view to learning whether they contain sufficient feed to sustain herds of reindeer. We have also had many requests for the establishment of herds on the east side of Hudson bay, but this area being in the province of Quebec, has thrown some doubt as to the status of the Eskimo living in this region. In any case, it is proposed to have Mr. Porsild examine the west coast of Hudson bay during the coming summer and, if possible, Coats island and the east coast. This will occupy his time until the late fall and possibly when the reindeer now being driven from Alaska to the Mackenzie arrive at the mouth of the Mackenzie, in the spring of 1931, he will be sent there to meet the herd.

R. T. PORSILD -

He has already left Ottawa for Aklavik and is expected to reach there in a few days. He will then begin the cutting of logs for cabins and poles for fences and corrals. As soon as navigation opens he will begin the construction of the necessary living houses, warehouses and corrals, and in all details prepare for the coming of the reindeer. Equipment and supplies have already been sent to Aklavik as well as a 32 - foot gasolene boat. 10,000 feet of rough lumber and other equipment is also being sent to him this summer and nothing is being spared to give him all equipment necessary for properly looking after the reindeer when they arrive in the spring of 1931.

(Sgd.) O. S. Finnie

(Approved by Council -
18th March, 1930).