

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the third meeting of the Council held on Thursday the 12th June, 1924, in the Office of the Commissioner, Mr. W. W. Cory.

PRESENT:

Mr. W. W. Cory	- Commissioner
Mr. R. A. Gibson	- Deputy Commissioner
Mr. J. W. Greenway	- Member of Council
Col. Cortlandt Starnes	- " " "
Dr. Chas. Camsell	- " " "
Mr. H. H. Rowatt	- " " "
Mr. O. S. Finnie	- " " " and
	Director, N.W.T.
Mr. K. R. Daly	- Legal Adviser

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on Wednesday the 14th June, 1922, were approved on the motion of Dr. Charles Camsell, seconded by Col. Starnes.

2. Business Arising Out of Minutes

Confirmation was given by the Commissioner in Council to the re-appointment of Notaries Public as follows:-

Oswald Sterling Finnie	- Ottawa
David Livingstone McKeand	- "
John Alexander McDougal	- Fort Smith
Alexander Leonard Sawle	- Edmonton
Rev. Gabriel Breynat	- Resolution
Henri Milton Martin	- Edmonton

On motion of Dr. Camsell, seconded by Mr. Gibson, the Director of the Northwest Territories was appointed to administer the Vital Statistics Ordinance.

In the temporary absence of the Commissioner, Mr. Gibson, Deputy Commissioner, took the chair.

3. Director's Report

Mr. Gibson mentioned that the Department had taken up with Dr. Scott the matter of co-operation of the Indian Schools as regards forest protection and conservation of wild life, enquiring whether it would be possible to arrange for lessons in the schools of the Territories dealing with these subjects, with the object of inculcating the idea of conservation in the minds of the children. Dr. Scott intimated that if the material were provided he would be glad to arrange for giving it a place in the work of the schools. The Northwest Territories Branch and Forestry Branch are now preparing suitable material along the lines indicated and, when ready, Mr. Gibson indicated that it would be laid before the various members of the Council for any suggestions they might have to offer.

On the statement of revenue appended to the

Director's report, the Director explained that the estimates approved for the fiscal year 1923-24 amounted to \$322,500. This amount included several large items such as the capital cost of a number of wireless stations and the Canadian Arctic expedition in the C. G. S. "Arctic". He pointed out that the maintenance charges in connection with the wireless stations would be very large.

Mr. Gibson explained that to meet the requirements of the Department of National Defence it had been pointed out by that Department that it was necessary to maintain four men at each station. Mr. Gibson suggested that this matter might come up for further discussion at the next meeting of Council. In the meantime the Director of the Territories is taking the matter up further with the Departments mentioned.

Colonel Starnes pointed out that it might be possible to handle the work through his Department on a cheaper basis. Mr. Gibson suggested that the Director take into consideration what Colonel Starnes had mentioned, in connection with the instructions already given him by the Commissioner as to reducing the cost of maintenance of the wireless stations.

On motion of Colonel Starnes, seconded by Dr. Camsell, the Director's report was adopted.

4. Proposed Legislation

Bill to amend Chapter 62, R.S.C. 1906 (Northwest Territories Act) by adding subsection Q to Section 8 re power to levy fur export tax.

The Director reported that this Bill is now before Parliament. Section 8 of the Northwest Territories Act empowers the Northwest Territories Council to make ordinances with respect to certain definite subjects, but the imposition of an export tax on furs is not one of them. The Department of Justice ruled that the Council could not legally provide for such a tax until authorized to do so by Parliament. The Ordinance has been prepared, and although it cannot be passed until Parliamentary authority is given, it is now submitted for an expression of the views of the Council. The Ordinance itself will be introduced at a subsequent meeting of Council, after the Bill now before Parliament has become law, and after the Governor in Council has given power to pass the Ordinance.

Mr. Rowatt enquired as to the basis on which the amount of the tax was arrived at. The Director explained that two years ago a conference took place of the Game Officers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, at which it was agreed that a uniform tax or royalty would be imposed in all these Provinces. In preparing the Ordinance the same schedule was adopted. The Ordinance has been submitted to the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, the Commissioner of the R.C.M.P. through whose Department the Game Act in the Territories is very largely administered, and also to the Justice Department.

The Ordinance provides that it will become effective on the 1st November next and will therefore apply only to next season's catch.

Further discussion was postponed until the required legislation was secured.

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5. Draft Ordinances for Confirmation

(a) Magistrates Amendment Ordinance;

On motion of Dr. Camsell, seconded by Colonel Starnes, confirmation was given to the Magistrates Amendment Ordinance.

(b) Fur Export Tax Ordinance;

Further action postponed pending amendment of Northwest Territories Act by Parliament giving authority to impose Fur Export Tax.

(c) Billiard Room Ordinance;

On motion of Colonel Starnes, seconded by Dr. Camsell, confirmation was given to the Billiard Room Ordinance.

The Commissioner returned and took the chair.

6. New Business

Advisability of introducing legislation making it compulsory for all foreign Scientists and Explorers to first obtain the permission of the Commissioner or the Canadian authorities before pursuing their scientific or other investigations within the North West Territories.

Dr. Camsell said that he was strongly in favour of some such action, mentioning cases which had recently occurred. The Commissioner suggested that Scientists carrying on investigations should give the Government of Canada the benefit of their explorations, and with that end in view it might be made a condition of the permit issued that a report of the work done should be submitted. Steps should be taken to safeguard against the removal of archaeological specimens by adopting the same provisions as in the case of permits to take specimens of wild life for scientific purposes. He referred also to the removal of totem poles and similar objects of interest.

On motion of Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Rowatt, a Committee was named consisting of the Director of the Territories, Colonel Starnes and Dr. Camsell to enquire into this matter with the co-operation of the Legal Adviser, and be prepared to report fully at next meeting of Council.

Administration of Land, Timber and Mines in the Territories

The Director referred to the fact that in 1922 an amendment was prepared under which the Northwest Territories would be excluded from the operation of the Dominion Lands Act. The Commissioner suggested that the papers be referred to Mr. Greenway for an expression of his opinion so that the matter could be further considered at the next meeting of the Council.

The meeting of the Council then adjourned.

'sgd' H. E. Hume,

Approved

Acting Secretary

'sgd' W. W. Cory,
Commissioner