

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL.

- AGENDA -

Wednesday, 11th March,

1931

11:00 a.m.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

Twenty-third Session - 4th February, 1931.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

- (a) Committee on Legislation -
Revision and printing of Ordinances.
- (b) Administration of civil matters in North
West Territories -
Scale of fees for Sheriff and Bailiff.
- (c) North West Territories and Yukon Radio
System.
- (d) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
Quarantine.
- (e) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition.
- (f) Regulations as provided in Eskimo Ruins
Ordinance.
- (g) Hospital Accommodation at Coppermine.

3. New Business -

- (a) Bache Peninsula Post.
- (b) George Brown - Criminal Assault.
- (c) Application Alexander Forbes,
Harvard Medical School - Aerial
Survey Hudson Strait.
- (d) Application H. Kinsley and C. B. Oulton
to export live fur bearers for fur farm-
ing purposes.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session of the North West Territories Council, held on Wednesday the 11th of March, 1931, in the office of the Deputy Minister of the Interior, at Ottawa.

PRESENT -

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

IN ATTENDANCE -

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

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

The Minutes of the Twenty-third Session of Council, held on Wednesday, the 4th of February 1931, having been sent to all the Members of Council and no amendments having been suggested, it was moved by Mr. Finnie, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

(a) Committee on Legislation -
 Revision and printing of Ordinances.

Mr. Daly reported that action had been taken to print those Ordinances which had not already been printed but that insofar as the general revision was concerned from present indications it would appear that there would not be funds available to enable the completion of this work during the next fiscal year.

(b) Administration of civil matters in
 North West Territories -
 Scale of fees for Sheriff and Bailiff.

Progress reported.

(c) North West Territories and Yukon Radio
 System -

The Secretary read a draft letter to Mr. Desbarats, Deputy Minister of National Defence, prepared by the Sub-Committee appointed at the last meeting of Council for the purpose.

Mr. Gibson reported that since the last session the Minister of the Interior had discussed the matter of establishing additional radio stations in the North West Territories with the Minister of Mines and had also received representations from mining companies operating in the North West Territories which altered the situation somewhat. He said that insofar as the duplication of the Mackenzie River route was concerned the mining

companies met this objection by pointing out that their planes took off from Resolution, striking straight in to their prospecting territory through Fort Rae rather than following the Mackenzie. Consequently the present stations operated by the Federal Government were not sufficient for their purposes.

After a brief discussion it was suggested that the Sub-Committee make the necessary changes in the draft letter.

- (d) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
Quarantine.

Progress reported.

- (e) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition -

The Secretary read a communication dated the 13th January, 1931, from Captain F. M. Williams in connection with plans for the proposed Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition to Boothia Peninsula or Fort Conger on Lady Franklin Bay, an enquiry addressed to Dr. Isaiah Bowman of the American Geographical Society and Dr. Bowman's reply. (Copies attached). He also read the comments of Mr. John Patterson, Director, Meteorological Service, Toronto; Captain F. Anderson, Hydrographer, Canadian Hydrographic Service, Department of Marine, Ottawa; Dr. Charles Camsell, Deputy Minister of Mines, Ottawa; Mr. Noel Ogilvie, Director, Geodetic Survey of Canada; Mr. J. T. Johnston, Director, Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau, and Dr. R. M. Stewart, Director, Dominion Observatory, Ottawa.

The enquiry was made as to whether the selection of Fort Conger on Lady Franklin Bay as a base of operations might not be significant. However, it was pointed out that this area had already been explored to some extent by the Greeley Expedition and that consequently a new expedition established there would not have the same amount of ground work to do.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Mr. Rowatt, seconded by Dr. Scott, that a copy of these papers be referred to Dr. Skelton, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, so that further information might be secured through the Canadian Minister at Washington. Carried.

- (f) Regulations as provided in Eskimo Ruins
Ordinance -

Progress reported.

- (g) Hospital Accommodation at Coppermine -

Mr. Gibson reported that the Minister did not seem to have very much hope of obtaining funds to assist in the maintenance of a hospital at Coppermine, but he intended going into the matter more fully; also that Mr. Finnie was preparing a comprehensive report for the Minister's information.

3. New Business -

- (a) Bache Peninsula Post -

Item disposed of at a meeting of the Northern Advisory Board held immediately prior to this meeting.

- (b) George Brown - Criminal Assault.

The George Brown case was reported to Council as required by R.S.C. 1927, Chapter 142, Section 57.

(c) Aerial Survey - Hudson Strait.

The Secretary read a communication received from Mr. Alexander Forbes of the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., with respect to the proposed survey of a portion of Northern Labrador and pointing out that while this area lay almost entirely within Newfoundland it might be necessary for their plane to land at Port Burwell, Quebec. He also said that some of the area they proposed photographing might fall within the North West Territories.

It was agreed that before taking any further steps the matter should be taken up with the Departments of National Defence, Railways and Canals, and Marine.

(d) Applications of C. B. Oulton and H. Kinsley to export live fur-bearing animals from the North West Territories -

The circumstances surrounding both these applications were reported briefly to Council, but as provision is made in the Northwest Game Regulations covering such cases it was ordered that these matters should be dealt with departmentally.

The meeting then adjourned.

A. J. McCreard
.....
Secretary

H. B. Rowan
.....
Deputy Commissioner

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK

Broadway at 156th Street

January 27, 1931.

Dear Mr. Finnie,

I fear that Captain Williams' expedition is one of those enterprises in which it is sought to secure the necessary support by tossing the responsibility back and forth between a number of persons and institutions. Captain Williams has been to see me several times, and I must say that he does not inspire confidence. I know too little about his past and I have told him that under the circumstances this Society is not in a position to give him its moral support. I asked him to call upon you, state precisely what his objects and methods were, and that I might be inclined toward the expedition if it had your endorsement and genuine approval. I also asked him to call upon the head of the Weather Bureau at Ottawa to see if the meteorological work which he proposed to do had any interest for the Dominion Service and if they approved of his technical equipment and proposed methods of observation.

My own feeling is that we are not getting on with a matter of this kind by having the leader of an expedition state certain broad scientific objectives. Anyone can set up such a statement. The critical elements are sufficient funds, a picked personnel, and a really worthwhile program.

We have made no arrangements whatever with Captain Williams, nor have we permitted him to use our name in any way. My own advice to you is that permission should not be given to operate in the region in question unless the expedition is set up in a far more effective way. The Carnegie Institution may have an interest in the expedition that far exceeds our own. I would not wish anything said in this letter to interfere with the development of the expedition if the Carnegie Institution makes an appeal to you for a permit.

Let me add how grateful I am that our acquaintance makes it possible for us to discuss these matters so frankly, for I think our standards, if I may say so, are the same and that while we wish to encourage exploration we wish to give support only to sound plans.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. O. S. Finnie,
North West Territories and Yukon,
OTTAWA, Canada.

(Sgd.) Isaiah Bowman
Director.

O. S. Finnie
Director

Department of the Interior
Canada
North West Territories and Yukon

In reply quote
File No. 7048

Ottawa,
23rd January,
1931

My dear Doctor,

I am sending you a copy of a letter, dated the 13th instant, from Captain F. M. Williams of the Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition, 47 Warren Street, New York City. He refers me to you and I would be glad, therefore, for your views concerning the bona fides of this expedition and its ability, financially and otherwise, to carry the undertaking through to a successful conclusion.

It appears from Captain Williams' letter that the expedition will perform certain work for a number of the scientific institutions of the United States, including the American Geographical Society and I would judge from that, that the expedition will be well organized and fully capable of carrying out the work to be entrusted to it. If that is the case, then, in all probability, this Department will grant the necessary permits.

No doubt the expedition will wish to secure fresh meat and you know we are very jealous of our musk-oxen and are doing everything we can to conserve them. We would not wish them disturbed.

I would be glad to have a word from you about this expedition. I have already written Dr. Camsell and he will let me know how he views it from the standpoint of his Department.

With kind personal regards, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) O.S. Finnie
Director.

Dr. Isaiah Bowman,
American Geographical Society,
Broadway at 156th Street,
NEW YORK CITY,
U. S. A.

WILLIAMS NORTH MAGNETIC POLE EXPEDITION

47 Warren Street, New York City

Captain F. M. Williams

Maj. Anthony Fiala

Expedition Consultant

13th January, 1931.

K. M. Brun

Personal Representative.

Hon. O. S. Finney, Director
Department of Northwest Territories,
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada.

My dear Sir,

For some time I have been planning a scientific expedition to the regions of the north magnetic pole, leaving New York on or about June 15, 1931, to establish a base on the Boothia Peninsula, where the expedition would remain for a period of two years. Broadly speaking, the object of the expedition is to obtain geophysic and other scientific data for the Bureau of Territorial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institute; for the United States Weather Bureau; for the Naval Research Laboratory, and the International Polar Commission. I have further borne in mind the possibility of carrying out an extensive aerial mapping program for the American Geographical Society.

The scientific bodies interested in our plans, and co-operating with the expedition, have suggested that we would be able to obtain data of greater value if our base were established at Fort Conger, Lady Franklin Bay, instead of on the Boothia Peninsula, as originally contemplated. As leader of this expedition, I desire to co-operate to the fullest possible extent with the Department of Northwest Territories, and I first wish to determine that our plans will in no way conflict with official expeditions the Canadian Government may be planning in connection with the Polar Jubilee, or with the expeditions of Canadian private citizens. I trust the outline of our program, herewith enclosed, will meet with your approval.

I will very much appreciate it if you will kindly write to Dr. Bowman of the American Geographical Society and express your opinion of my plans; and at the same time, if you will be good enough to do so, outline to him any field work you may have under consideration for the coming season. Will you also indicate to me at your earliest convenience the attitude of your Department toward my expedition.

I will be very glad indeed to make the necessary arrangements for the forwarding of all weather data, or other information you may desire, concerning the locality in which the base of our expedition is finally established.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) F. M. Williams.

P.S.
in care of -

Will you kindly address your reply to me
Captain H.H. Railey,
Room 1508, 2 West 45th St.,
New York City.

Privy Council
Canada

P. C. 777

Certified to be a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator on the 31st March, 1931.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 26th March, 1931, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting that by Order in Council dated the seventeenth day of February, 1931 (P.C. 332) the resignation of William Wallace Cory, Esquire, C.M.G., as Commissioner of the North West Territories, was accepted.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, advise that, in order to fill the vacancy thus created, Hugh Howard Rowatt, Esquire, Deputy Minister of the Interior, be appointed Commissioner of the North West Territories without additional remuneration, such appointment to be made under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 3 of the North West Territories Act, Chapter 142, R.S. 1927.

(Sgd.) G. G. Kezar

Asst. Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
The Minister of the Interior.