

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL

- AGENDA -

Wednesday, 24th June,
1931

3 p.m.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

Twenty-fifth Session - 18th May, 1931.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

- (a) Administration of civil matters in North
West Territories -
Scale of fees for sheriff and bailiff.
- (b) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
Quarantine
- (c) Archie Ouelette, Insane - Fort Norman
- (d) Reindeer Experiment.

3. New Business -

- (a) Keewatin Game Preserve
- (b) Audit of Public Administrator's Accounts
- (c) (i) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition
(ii) Bache Peninsula
- (d) Northern Waterways Limited
- (e) French steamships sojourning in Arctic
waters.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Twenty-sixth Session of the North West Territories Council, held on Wednesday the Twenty-fourth day of June, 1931, 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. Chas. Camsell	- Member of Council
Col. Cortlandt Starnes	- " "
Mr. O. S. Finnie	- " " and
	Director, N.W.T. & Y. Br.
Major D. L. McKeand	- Secretary.

IN ATTENDANCE -

Major L. T. Burwash	- N.W.T. & Y. Branch
Dr. L. D. Livingstone	- Medical Officer
Mr. K. R. Daly	- Legal Adviser.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - File 483-2

The Minutes of the Twenty-fifth Session of Council, held on Monday the 18th day of May, 1931, having been sent to all the Members of Council and no amendments having been suggested, it was moved by Mr. Finnie, seconded by Mr. Gibson, that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

2. Business arising out of Minutes - File 5068

(a) Administration of Civil Matters in
North West Territories -
Scale of fees for sheriff and bailiff

Colonel Starnes said that in the North West Territories people expected a high rate of pay for their work and that they could not get anyone to act as bailiff under the scale of fees provided at present. He said that there were very few appointments made and that the scale suggested was the minimum that they considered workable.

In answer to an enquiry it was pointed out that the present scale of fees was approximately the same as the fees paid in the Provinces and that the proposed scale was much higher. A comparative statement was not available and after a brief discussion, inasmuch as there was no immediate urgency, Council's decision was deferred.

(b) General Welfare of Inhabitants - File 21-2
Quarantine

The Secretary reported that the draft Ordinance sent to the Members of Council that morning was submitted simply to serve as a basis of discussion at the meeting; also that before proceeding any further with the preparation of the Ordinance Mr. Daly and Dr. Livingstone would like to hear what the members of Council had to say on the subject.

Mr. Gibson asked whether Council had the necessary legislative authority to provide regulations restricting the entry to the Territories from the Provinces of Canadian citizens. It

was pointed out that some years ago travel between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec was restricted to those able to prove that they had been vaccinated. The opinion was expressed that if the Provinces had authority to establish regulations of the sort the North West Territories Council had also. Mr. Gibson pointed out that when the Entry Ordinance that was drafted and considered by Council approximately ten years ago, was submitted to Sir James Loughheed, at that time Minister of the Interior; that he consulted the departments of Health and Soldier's Civil Re-establishment, and that after due consideration it was decided that it would be inadvisable to attempt to enforce any such regulations.

It was pointed out that the Ordinance being considered by Council was drafted primarily for the protection of the Eskimo. The opinion was expressed that while it might be feasible to enforce the draft Ordinance with respect to the seacoast it would be rather difficult to do so in the interior.

Colonel Starnes pointed out that passengers as well as the crew of a vessel would have been exposed to contagion and that the Ordinance only provided that "the officer, crew and personnel of every boat should report and be examined at Herschel Island, Aklavik and Chesterfield Inlet."

Mr. Gibson thought the responsibility should be placed on those in charge of all common carriers entering the North West Territories of seeing that no contaminated person was taken into the Territories by their vehicles. It was suggested that in this connection some penalty should be provided.

After a rather full discussion it was decided that the legal adviser should look into the matter further ascertaining just what authority the North West Territories Council had to restrict the entry of Canadians into the Territories, to study the Health, Immigration and Customs regulations and report back to Council.

(c) Archie Ouelette, Insane - Fort Norman - File 7088

The Secretary reminded Council that Archie Ouelette had left the Territories of his own free will, that he had paid his own transportation as far as Edmonton and that while in Edmonton he had been declared insane by Provincial officers and placed in a provincial institution at Ponoka, Alberta. As the Province now wished the Department of the Interior to assume responsibility for the care of this man Council was asked for an expression of opinion.

It was pointed out that in the case of a permanent resident of the Province of Alberta in indigent circumstances being seriously hurt in a National Park that the Province expected this Department to assume responsibility for his care.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell, that the responsibility for Ouelette's care should be left with the Province. Carried.

(d) Reindeer Experiment - Files 4819 & 7128

The Secretary enquired whether the statement of policy asked for by Council was now necessary in view of the fact that Mr. A. E. Porsild had been sent to Norway to secure the services of Lapp reindeer herders and of the recent visit of Mr. Baldwin from New York.

Council felt that this statement should be prepared as quickly as possible so that it would be available if required by the Minister of the Interior or Council.

Mr. Finnie reported, for the information of Council, that a wire had recently been received from Mr. R. T. Porsild at Aklavik, stating that certain buildings erected for use in connection with the reception of the reindeer herd, together with a quantity of departmental equipment, had been accidentally burned. He said that he was obtaining prices on lumber from Fort Smith with a view to its immediate shipment to Aklavik, but that with the money available it would be difficult if not impossible to replace the necessary buildings and purchase the needed equipment.

3. New Business -

(a) Keewatin Game Preserve - File 6324

The Secretary read a letter dated 11th May, 1931, addressed to Mr. Finnie by Mr. Ralph Parsons, Fur Trade Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company, suggesting the establishment of a game reserve in the Keewatin District, for the exclusive use of the natives (copy attached).

It was suggested that a comprehensive memorandum be prepared and submitted to the members of Council for consideration prior to the next session.

(b) Audit of Public Administrator's Accounts - File 2540

Mr. Finnie said that formerly the audit of the Public Administrator's accounts at Edmonton and of the Departmental books at the District Agent's Office, Fort Smith, had been undertaken by the travelling auditor of the Department, but that this officer was no longer in the Service.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that this audit would be looked after by an officer of the Accounts Branch who would be in Edmonton this summer looking after some work for the National Parks Service.

(c) (i) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition
 (ii) Bache Peninsula Files 7048 & 5031-6

It was reported that from present indications it appeared altogether unlikely that the Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition would materialize this year and that Council was therefore asked for an expression of opinion as to the desirability of continuing the occupation of the Bache Peninsula post.

Colonel Starnes expressed the opinion that the necessary work of the Government on Ellesmere Island could be carried on from Craig Harbour and suggested that the Bache Post detachment be instructed this year to be ready to withdraw next year. This was agreed to by Council.

Mr. Finnie said that in view of the need for rigid economy a communication had been sent to Job Brothers with a view to ascertaining what allowance they could make if the "Beothic" did not go west of Dundas this year; also that Job Brothers had agreed to deduct \$2,500 from the contract price if the ship did not go west of this point and provided the Expedition did not last longer than sixty days. In addition to this saving it was pointed out that it would be unnecessary to purchase supplies for the proposed caches at Beechey Island, Cape Cockburn and Winter Harbour. This would make a total saving of about \$4,000.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Colonel Starnes that a recommendation from the North West Territories Council be submitted to the Minister of the Interior that the establishment of caches at the above-mentioned points be deferred for this year. Carried.

(d) Northern Waterways Limited - File 7146

Mr. Daly pointed out that a few years ago the question of whether a Provincial Charter was sufficient in the case of a company operating in the North West Territories was discussed and that at that time the Under-Secretary of State expressed the opinion that these companies should be required to take out a Dominion Charter. He said that the Northern Waterways Limited, with headquarters at Edmonton, had offered to quote on shipments along the Mackenzie River in the North West Territories, and that on consulting the Under-Secretary of State it had been ascertained that this Company was incorporated under the laws of the Province of Alberta only. He expressed the opinion that the

Department of the Interior should insist upon the Northern Waterways Limited taking out a Federal Charter.

Council agreed with this opinion but at the same time suggested that before taking any definite steps it should be ascertained whether all the other transportation companies operating in the Territories had taken out a Federal Charter.

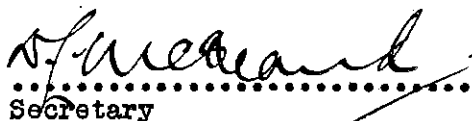
(e) French Vessels Operating in the
Vicinity of Baffin Island - File 7142

The Secretary read for the information of Council a memorandum from Mr. O. S. Finnie to the Deputy Minister of the Interior suggesting that in view of the fact that two similar permits had already been granted for the coming season that a permit should be granted to the steamer "Lina L.D." to establish itself as a base of supply in Canadian Territorial waters along Baffin Island for French fishing vessels operating on the Greenland banks, subject to the usual conditions.

Mr. Gibson asked whether there was a police post in the vicinity of the harbour which the "Lina L.D." proposed to make use of and was informed that the closest was approximately 150 miles distant.

It was moved by Colonel Starnes, seconded by Dr. Camsell, that a communication be addressed to Colonel Starnes in this connection in order that he might instruct Inspector Joy to make some enquiries locally with respect to the operations of the French vessels making use of Canadian waters in this area in previous years and on the general question of the advisability of granting these permits. Carried.

Council then adjourned.


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Secretary


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Commissioner

In your reply refer to No. 6666

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY
FUR TRADE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
WINNIPEG, MAN.

May 11th, 1931.

Dear Sir,

The completion of the Hudson Bay Railway and the plans that are being put into effect to develop Churchill as a seaport and terminal of importance, raise again the question of what is to happen to that part of the country on the west coast of Hudson Bay immediately north of Churchill.

White trappers are already entering that district, and in a few years' time, unless steps are taken to prevent them, we may expect to see the whole territory overrun with them.

Both from a business point of view and from the viewpoint of the native welfare, we would prefer to see the country reserved for the natives. Everyone knows what the results of white trappers' activities have been elsewhere throughout the country, especially where they have entered territories previously occupied almost exclusively by Indians or Eskimos and we should be greatly concerned if such a scourge should be let loose in this part of the North West Territories.

The Eskimos throughout the Arctic and sub-Arctic find it difficult enough under ordinary circumstances to obtain their livelihood; a condition which is apparently admitted by the Department, in that it has passed laws, from time to time, to conserve the numbers of water mammals and fur bearing animals in the Territories. What conditions will be when the population of the country is further increased by the migration of trappers and hunters from the south, you can understand as well as we can. The average "white" entering that country will have nothing in view beyond his own immediate gain, and his methods will be as ruthless as they have been elsewhere.

We need hardly say that we are very much interested in this matter and would appreciate it very much if you could let us know what the Department's attitude is going to be and what action, if any, it is proposed to take to mitigate the conditions that must inevitably be brought about, if no restrictions are placed upon immigration to the Territories.

Yours faithfully,

O. S. Finnie, Esq.,
Director,
North West Territories & Yukon,
Dept. of Interior,
OTTAWA, Ont.

For the Hudson's Bay Company
(Sgd.) Ralph Parsons,
Fur Trade Commissioner.