

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

- AGENDA -

Thursday, 7th January, 1932.

2:30 p.m.

1. Confirmation of Minutes. -

Twenty-eighth Session - 10th November, 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) Reindeer Experiment.
- (d) Keewatin Game Preserve.
- (e) (i) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition  
(ii) Bache Peninsula -  
Hudson Bay Company transport.
- (f) Northern Waterways Limited.
- (g) Relief Expedition for Dr. H. K. E. Krueger.
- (h) (i) Fort Smith - Fitzgerald Portage Road.  
(ii) Great Bear River Portage Road  
(iii) Development Mineral Area Bear Lake - Coppermine.
- (i) Voluntary Services Emile Lambert as Game Keeper and Fire Ranger.
- (j) Liquor Dispensary - Fort Smith.
- (k) Eskimo Patients - Chesterfield.
- (l) Michell Pierce -  
Proposed Expedition "North West Passage".
- (m) North West Game Regulations -  
Beaver Permits.
- (n) Ikey Bolt -  
Permanent Trading Post Victoria Island

3. New Business -

- (a) North West Game Act -  
Cancellation of Permits to trade in Wood Buffalo Park.
- (b) North West Game Regulations -  
Petition from residents Reliance District.
- (c) Medical Officer's Report S.S. "Ungava" -  
Health Conditions amongst Eskimo.
- (d) Wood Bison slaughtered for destitutes.
- (e) British Arctic Air Route Expedition report on Eskimo conditions in East Greenland.

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- (f) Request for Medical Officer at Coppermine.
- (g) Aeroplanes carrying furs from the Northwest Territories -  
(Section 10(r), Chapter 142, R.S. 1927) also (Fur Export Ordinance 1929).
- (h) Resignation Mr. O. S. Finnie.
- (i) Petition to the Minister for change in Administration, Mackenzie District.
- (j) Application J. M. Stagg -  
Permission kill game food purposes Yellowknife Preserve.
- (k) Petition to the Minister for game preserves Mackenzie Delta and Arctic Coast.
- (l) Petition from Eskimo.
- (m) Landing field at Fort Smith.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Twenty-ninth Session of the North West Territories Council, held on Thursday, the 7th day of January, 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. Chas. Camsell	-	Member of Council
Major General J. H. MacBrien	-	" "
Major D. L. McKeand	-	Secretary

## IN ATTENDANCE -

Dr. O. D. Skelton	-	Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.
Mr. H. E. Hume	-	Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.
Mr. A. M. Narraway	-	Associate Director, Topographical Surveys Br.
Mr. A. L. Cumming	-	Dominion Lands Adm.
Mr. K. R. Daly	-	Legal Adviser.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - File 483-2.

The Minutes of the Twenty-eighth Session of Council, held on Tuesday, the 10th day of November, 1931, having been sent to all the members of Council, and no amendments having been suggested, it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by General MacBrien, that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

- (a) Administration of civil matters in North West Territories -  
Scale of fees for sheriff and bailiff.  
Files 12 and 5068

Mr. Daly reported that he had conferred with Mr. Edwards, Deputy Minister of Justice but had been informed that the Department of Justice was not specially interested in the proposed amendment; also that if the Departments of Interior and Royal Canadian Mounted Police were agreed that the proposed amendment was in order then the Department of Justice would raise no objection.

At Mr. Edwards' suggestion Mr. Daly reported that he had inserted a clause providing for the guaranteeing of fees and this clause is now included in the draft amendment.

After a brief discussion it was suggested by Mr. Rowatt that copies of the amended amendment to the Ordinance be sent to each member of Council for consideration, prior to the next session.

- (b) General Welfare of Inhabitants -  
Quarantine. Files 21-2 and 298

Stand.

- (c) Reindeer Experiment. Files 4819 and 7305.

The Secretary reported that a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr. A. E. Porsild dealing with the future policy of the reindeer experiment had been forwarded to the members subsequent to the last session and that no further memorandum could be prepared in this connection until after the arrival of the herd at Kittigazuit.

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Mr. Gibson expressed the view that it would be desirable to have Mr. J. Dewey Soper make an inspection of the reindeer camp this summer provided the preliminary work in the Wood Buffalo Park would permit of his making the trip to the Mackenzie delta.

(d) Keewatin Game Preserve. File 6324.

Stand.

(e) (i) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition. File 7048.

For the purpose of facilitating discussion the Secretary read a draft letter to Dr. Skelton, Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, requesting that he have brought to the attention of Captain Williams, through the proper official channel, the advisability of his expedition conforming to all necessary formalities with respect to various Canadian regulations before proceeding further with the plans for his proposed occupation of Fort Conger.

Dr. Skelton expressed the opinion that this seemed to be a proper course of action from a national standpoint, but thought it might be better to communicate with Captain Williams direct, rather than through the United States Government. Council felt that Dr. Skelton's point was well taken, but thought that communication should be through the Department of External Affairs. Dr. Skelton said that this could be done by having the Canadian Legation in Washington communicate direct with Captain Williams.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by General MacBrien that the means of communication be left to Dr. Skelton, it being understood that for the present no official communication shall be had on the subject with the United States Government. Carried

(ii) Bache Peninsula -  
Hudson's Bay Company transport. File 5031-7 - 2980.

General MacBrien stated that he proposed transferring the Bache Peninsula post next summer to Craig Harbour, on Ellesmere Island, unless Council knew of some reason why that action should not be taken, or unless the Williams Expedition went north. He also mentioned that they were in communication direct with the Hudson's Bay Company respecting the matter of transportation to the eastern Arctic police posts and that an item would be included in their Supplementary Estimates to cover the expenditure involved.

(f) Northern Waterways Limited. File 7146.

The Commissioner reported that this matter was still before the Department of Justice. Stand.

(g) Relief Expedition for Dr. H. K. E. Krueger. File 4725.

The Secretary reported that this item had been left on the Agenda in order that the general question of requiring scientific and exploratory parties entering the North West Territories to furnish bonds, or some other form of guarantee in the event of the necessity arising for despatching a relief expedition.

Mr. Gibson inquired if it would not be feasible to notify those concerned when the permit was issued that the Canadian Government was not prepared to render any assistance in the event of the expedition meeting disaster. Dr. Skelton expressed the opinion that if expeditions were required to furnish a bond in advance it would probably have the result of reducing the number of expeditions of this kind. He added that there might be occasions on which the Canadian Government would desire to participate in a relief expedition and in this event it might be well to have the regulations more or less elastic.

Dr. Camsell expressed the opinion that the Department could hardly go further than to disclaim responsibility for rescues at the time the permits were issued.

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It was finally suggested that a letter be written to Dr. Skelton on the general question in order that he might endeavour to find out what the practice was in other countries.

(h) (i) Fort Smith-Fitzgerald Portage Road. Files 215 and 6067.

Mr. Rowatt reported that Colonel MacAlpine interviewed him recently on the question of roads in the North West Territories. Colonel MacAlpine stated that mining companies were willing to use the Fort Smith portage road in its present condition for another year and asked that the North West Territories Council concentrate on pressing for the construction of a road at the Great Bear River Rapids portage next year.

Mr. Gibson mentioned that it would be necessary to take some action before the end of the fiscal year with respect to the \$5,000.00 voted to the Province of Alberta in the Supplementary Estimates of the Department of the Interior.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell that a letter be written to the Deputy Minister of Public Works advising that \$5,000.00 had been made available for the Province of Alberta, which would be paid only on the advice of the Department of Public Works

(ii) Great Bear River Portage Road. File 6905.

The Commissioner stated that the mining interests represented by Colonel MacAlpine had expressed dissatisfaction with the action being taken by the Public Works Department. It seemed to be the opinion of Colonel MacAlpine that the Great Bear River Rapids could be navigated only by high powered boats during the very short season of high water and that the mining interests would be unwilling to risk valuable machinery on experimental transportation of this kind. He added that the road would still be required even though the water transport experiment proved successful.

Dr. Camsell stated that from a personal recollection of the river he was inclined to agree with Colonel MacAlpine's opinion. Also that he did not think the water at the rapids was deep enough to permit transportation by boat.

Mr. A. L. Cumming was asked for an opinion and reported that the portage road could be constructed at a reasonable cost as the necessary materials were all immediately available and there was no serious drainage problem present. Mr. Hume thought that immediate action was necessary and it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell that a further letter be forwarded by the Commissioner of the North West Territories to the Deputy Minister of Public Works, requesting that further consideration be given to the construction of this portage road early this year.

(iii) Development Mineral Area Bear Lake  
Coppermine. File 5948.

For the information of Council Mr. A. M. Narraway was requested to display and explain a map showing the location of the five radio stations owned by the Dominion Explorers, Limited, which the Company was prepared to sell to the Federal Government; also the location of three additional stations which were being proposed by the Department of National Defence.

Mr. Gibson stated that Colonel MacAlpine had discussed this matter recently with him and had mentioned that the cost of these five stations to the Company was approximately \$100,000.00; that they had been valued by the Department of National Defence at \$35,000.00; that the Dominion Explorers were indebted to the Federal Government in the sum of \$15,000.00 and therefore that an outlay of \$20,000.00 only was necessary to secure the radio equipment at these five stations.

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After a brief discussion it was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by General MacBrien that:-

"That in the opinion of the North West Territories Council, it is desirable that the Department of National Defence should be informed that the administrative control and mineral development in the Mackenzie District of the North West Territories now under way necessitates wireless facilities beyond those provided by the Government stations already established;

"That there are five stations now owned by the Dominion Explorers which can be had by the Dominion at an exceptionally low figure. These stations appear to be located at strategic points, but in any event they are portable and can be moved if desired;

"That officers of the Interior Department and of the Department of Mines who are familiar with the requirements of the District are available for conference and, if desired, will assist the officers of the Department of National Defence in preparing a presentation of this matter for the consideration of the Government."

- (i) Voluntary Services Emile Lambert as Game Keeper and Fire Ranger. File 7204.

Stand.

- (j) Liquor Dispensary - Fort Smith. File 563.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. J. A. McDougal, District Agent at Fort Smith, reporting on the suggestion that a liquor dispensary be established at that point. Mr. McDougal expressed that opinion that the population of the Mackenzie District would not warrant the opening of a liquor dispensary at Fort Smith but he suggested that permits for medicinal purposes be issued from Fort Smith instead of from Ottawa. The matter was discussed briefly and it was agreed that as there was no urgency the question be allowed to stand for six months.

- (k) Eskimo Patients - Chesterfield. Files 7211 and 7228.

Stand - General MacBrien asked whether a doctor would be placed at Chesterfield and Mr. Gibson replied that this had been promised.

- (l) Michell Pierce - Proposed Expedition "North West Passage". File 7261.

Stand.

- (m) North West Game Regulations. Beaver Permits. Files 7208 and 7294.

Stand.

- (n) Ikey Bolt. Permanent Trading Post, Victoria Island. File 5820.

General MacBrien mentioned that one of his officers had reported to him that Bolt was a full-blooded Alaskan Eskimo and agreed to get more definite information. Stand.

### 3. New Business.-

- (a) North West Game Act - Cancellation of permits to Trade in Wood Buffalo Park. File 7183.

The Secretary reported for the information of Council that permits to trade in Wood Buffalo Park in the names of Mr. Thomas Woodman and Messrs. Hamdon and Alley, had been cancelled because of illegal trafficking in furs contrary to the Alberta Game Regulations. The action taken by the Commissioner was formally approved.

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- (b) North West Game Regulations -  
Petition from residents, Reliance  
District. File 7294.

The Secretary reported that a copy of this Petition had been sent to Dr. D. C. Scott and it was decided to allow the matter to stand until Dr. Scott was present.

- (c) Medical Officer's Report S. S. "Ungava" -  
Health Conditions Amongst Eskimo. File 33.

The Secretary reported that Dr. N. H. Bowers, Medical Officer on board the "Ungava" had submitted a report to the Hudson's Bay Company as a result of his investigations in Hudson Bay with respect to Indians and Eskimo under the following heads:-

1. Health conditions on board ship.
2. Health conditions among post personnel.
3. Native welfare.

Copies of the report had been sent to the Deputy Minister of National Health, the Deputy Attorney General of Quebec and the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

- (d) Wood Bison slaughtered for Destitutes. File 6897.

The Secretary reminded Council that at a former Session the slaughtering of 25 animals from the Wood Buffalo herd for distribution to destitutes also to hospitals and schools in the Northwest Territories had been authorized, that while the slaughter was under way Bishop Breynat had made application for four additional carcasses, Bishop Geddes for one carcass and Bishop Guy of Grouard, Alberta, for six carcasses, all of which had been approved by both Departments of Interior and Indian Affairs.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell that the action taken be approved. Carried.

- (e) British Arctic Air Route Expedition report  
on Eskimo Conditions in East Greenland. File 6767.

The Secretary read for the information of Council an extract from a reference from the Department of External Affairs with respect to H. G. Watkins' impressions of East Greenland, and the native inhabitants of that area. Mr. Watkins was apparently very favourably impressed with the conditions of the Eskimo but expressed the opinion that East Greenland is not a fit place for white men as conditions there would not harmonize with their needs for existence. He also went so far as to say that all expeditions there and all hunting by white men should be prohibited as every expedition harmed the existence of the Eskimo and distracted their interests from the primitive methods of living essential to them.

- (f) Request for Medical Officer at Coppermine. File 6481-2.

The Secretary read a telegram received through Dr. Urquhart, from Mr. E. Pasley, Manager of the Canalaska Trading Company at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T., as follows:-

"Following telegram received from E. Pasley Manager Canalaska Trading Company Cambridge Bay via Coppermine STOP Many cases here in need of medical aid STOP Two of paralysis STOP Taking most of our time attending same STOP Our place more like a hospital than a trading post STOP Sure need a doctor in this district STOP Shall be running out of medical supplies before winter finished STOP Have already raided mission supply here message ends".

It was pointed out that there was no appropriation available that would enable the appointment of a doctor for the

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Coppermine area and consequently favourable consideration could not be given to Mr. Pasley's suggestion.

Council was also informed that in the opinion of the former doctor the area could only be properly served in the event of a hospital being erected and equipped. It was decided that a brief explanatory letter should be written to Mr. Pasley.

- (g) Aeroplanes Carrying Furs from the Northwest Territories -  
(Section 10(r), Chapter 142, R.S. 1927) also  
(Fur Export Ordinance 1929) File 2749.

It was suggested that the increasing use of aeroplanes might complicate the collection of the fur tax in the North West Territories. General MacBrien asked whether a regulation could be enacted requiring all aeroplane pilots to call at a Government post in the Territories for clearance. The suggestion was received rather favourably and it was decided that the matter should be looked into and brought up again at the next Session.

- (h) Resignation - Mr. O. S. Finnie. File 483-2.

The Secretary read a letter received from Mr. O. S. Finnie tendering his resignation as a member of the North West Territories Council due to his retirement from the Government Service. Regret was expressed at the separation and Mr. Gibson moved, seconded by Dr. Camsell that -

RESOLVED that the Members of the Council of the North West Territories in Session assembled desire to place on record an expression of their appreciation of the services rendered by their colleague, Oswald Sterling Finnie, Director of the North West Territories and Yukon Branch, Department of the Interior, who was not only one of the senior administrative officers in the service of Canada but of this Council, he having been appointed a member of the North West Territories Council by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 16th day of June, 1921, and served continuously until the 31st day of December, 1931.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be engrossed and transmitted by the Secretary of this Council to Mr. Finnie.

- (i) Petition to the Minister for Change in Administration, Mackenzie District, File 7304.

Stand.

- (j) Application of Mr. J. M. Stagg for permission to kill game in Yellowknife Preserve. File 6735.

Stand.

- (k) Additional Game Preserve. File 7282 and 6862.

Stand.

- (l) Petition from Eskimo. File 7282.

Stand.



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(m) Landing field at Fort Smith. File 6372.

The Secretary read a memorandum submitted by Mr. Hume urging the further improvement of the Fort Smith landing field. After a brief discussion Council recommended that the matter be referred to Mr. J. A. Wilson, Controller of Civil Aviation, Department of National Defence, for further consideration, it being felt that construction and maintenance of landing fields in the Territories was not a proper function of the Department of the Interior.

Council then adjourned.

*H. H. Rowatt*  
.....  
Commissioner.

*S. J. Macdonald*  
.....  
Secretary.