

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL- AGENDA -

Monday, 18th May,

1931

3 p.m.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -
 - (a) Twenty-fourth Session - 11th March, 1931.
 - (b) Special Session - 8th May, 1931.

2. Business Arising out of Minutes -
 - (a) Committee on Legislation -
Printing of Ordinances.

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

 - (c) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
Quarantine.

 - (d) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition.

 - (e) Regulations -
Eskimo Ruins Ordinance.

 - (f) Application Alexander Forbes, Harvard
Medical School -
Aerial Survey Hudson Strait.

3. New Business -
 - (a) Archie Ouelette, Insane - Fort Norman .

 - (b) Killing Buffalo in Wood Buffalo Park.

 - (c) Mrs. Veronique Gowen - Fort Resolution.

 - (d) Report on Reindeer Experiment.

 - (e) Application J. W. Campbell - Northern
Traders, Ltd.
Five (5) gallons liquor for medicinal
purposes.

 - (f) Close season - Beaver.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORIES

Minutes of the Twenty-fifth Session of the North West Territories Council, held on Monday the 18th day of May, 1931, in the office of the Deputy Minister of the Interior, at Ottawa.

PRESENT -

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

IN ATTENDANCE -

Dr. L. D. Livingstone	-	Medical Officer
Mr. K. R. Daly	-	Legal Adviser.

1. Confirmation of Minutes -

Copies of the Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Session of Council, held on Wednesday, the 11th of March, 1931, and of the Special Session held on the 6th of May, 1931, having been sent to all the members of Council and no amendments having been suggested, it was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by Colonel Starnes, that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

2. Business arising out of Minutes -

(a) Committee on Legislation -
 Printing of Ordinances

Mr. Finnie reported, for the information of Council, that the printing of the Ordinances was well under way; that the proof had been checked and that copies of the consolidated Ordinances would be available for distribution within a very short time.

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

Mr. Daly reported progress and said that the matter would be ready for the consideration of Council at an early date.

(c) General Welfare of Inhabitants -
 Quarantine

It was reported, for the information of Council that Dr. Livingstone and Mr. Daly had this matter in hand and that progress was being made with the draft regulations.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Finnie, that members be furnished with a copy of the proposed Regulations in ample time for consideration before the next session of Council. Carried.

(d) Williams North Magnetic Pole Expedition -

The Secretary reported that Dr. Skelton had forwarded a copy of a lengthy report from the Canadian Legation at Washington. In accord with the suggestions made by Mr. Wrong, Mr. Finnie had written Captain Williams in reply to his letter of the 5th March last repeating that the Department is desirous of co-operating with any bona fide expedition and pointing out the hazards incidental to an inadequately equipped expedition. He also stated the application for a permit was being seriously considered by the several departments in Ottawa, and requested further information as regards the ship, supplies, and financial backing of the expedition. The Secretary reported that no reply had yet been received.

(e) Regulations -
Eskimo Ruins Ordinance

Copies of the draft Regulations having been sent to all the members of Council, after a brief discussion it was moved by Dr. Camsell, seconded by Dr. Scott, that the Regulations be approved. Carried.

(f) Application Alexander Forbes, Harvard Medical School -
Aerial Survey Hudson Strait

The Secretary reported, for the information of Council, that Mr. Forbes had been furnished with data respecting the Air Force Regulations.

3. New Business -

(a) Archie Ouelette, Insane - Fort Norman -

The circumstances incidental to the case of Archie Ouelette, insane, were reported briefly to Council. It was stated that he paid his own way out and that the Government was not responsible for his care.

(b) Killing Buffalo in Wood Buffalo Park -

Mr. Finnie read a memorandum addressed to the Deputy Minister of the Interior regarding the killing of buffalo to supply meat for mission schools and hospitals (copy attached). He asked for authority to slaughter a sufficient number at the proper season of the year to be distributed to schools and hospitals, and for relief purposes.

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Scott, that whatever buffalo meat was required for the mission schools and hospitals, and for relief purposes, might be taken by the Warden Service at the time of year best suited for slaughtering provided that no more than twenty-five animals were taken without further authority of Council.

(c) Mrs. Veronique Gowen - Fort Resolution -

The Secretary reported, for the information of Council, that arrangements could be made for the detention and care of persons convicted of spreading communicable diseases, under Section 307 of the Criminal Code, in the Fort Saskatchewan jail.

(d) Liquor Permits -

The Secretary reported that an application had been received from Mr. J. A. Campbell, of Winnipeg, General Manager of the Northern Traders Limited, for permission to import five gallons of liquor into the North West Territories for medicinal purposes.

It was pointed out that Mr. Campbell was not a resident and would only be in the Territories for a short period during the summer, and in view of the fact that liquor permits were

issued for medicinal purposes only, it was felt that the usual two gallons would be sufficient.

(e) Beaver -

The Secretary read a memorandum addressed to the Deputy Minister of the Interior by Mr. O. S. Finnie (copy attached) dealing with the beaver situation in the Mackenzie District, N.W.T. It was recommended that the close season on beaver, which was established for a period of three years from the 1st October, 1928, under the authority of P.C. 277, be extended for a further period of two years but that one member of each needy native family be permitted to take fifteen beaver each year.

Mr. Finnie read a portion of P.C. 51 dated 14th January, 1931, under the authority of which one member of each needy Indian and each needy half-breed family had been permitted to take not more than fifteen beaver during the period 15th January to 15th May, 1931, under permits issued by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Colonel Starnes recommended that the provisions of P.C. 51 be extended for a further period of two years and Mr. Daly said that this could be done under the provisions of the Order in Council extending the close season.

It was thereupon moved by Colonel Starnes, seconded by Dr. Scott that the close season be extended for a further period of two years and that the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 51, be re-enacted to permit one member of each needy Indian or each needy half-breed family to take fifteen beaver each year during that period. Carried.

(f) Report on Reindeer Experiment -

The Secretary read a memorandum addressed to the Deputy Minister of the Interior suggesting that Mr. Porsild be sent to Norway for the purpose of hiring a number of Lapp reindeer herder families to help care for the reindeer when they reached the mouth of the Mackenzie.

Mr. Finnie reported briefly, for the information of Council, the situation as to the present status of the herd and the need for securing the services of trained Lapp herders.

Mr. Gibson pointed out that the Department had already made a fairly extensive investment in Messrs. A. E. and R. T. Porsild and they should be able to look after the establishment of the herd when it reached its destination in northern Canada.

Dr. Scott pointed out that the Hudson's Bay Company had had an unfortunate experience in the hiring of Lapps for the care of their reindeer herd; that Lapps of the artisan class had been hired by mistake rather than those who were trained herders.

Mr. Finnie was asked whether any definite policy had been reached with respect to the distribution of the reindeer once the herd had been established, but he stated that his immediate concern was the securing of qualified herders and that with this end in view he had suggested a conference in the office of the Deputy Minister at which Mr. Harkin, Mr. Porsild, Mr. Mackenzie and himself might be present.

Following a further discussion it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Dr. Camsell, that Mr. Finnie and the Sub-Committee suggested by him draft a memorandum dealing with the matter of a future reindeer policy, copies of which might be sent to the members of Council for their consideration at the earliest possible date. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. Macnaught
.....
Secretary

H. H. Rowell
.....
Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

File No. 4483

CANADA

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON

OTTAWA,
11th May,
1931

Memorandum.

H. H. Rowatt, Esq.,
Deputy Minister,
Department of the Interior.

A few years ago we received representations from residents of the Mackenzie District that the beaver had been trapped out in certain areas where formerly they were plentiful, and the suggestion was made that a close season be declared for a period of years. Investigations were made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and our own officers in the Mackenzie District, who reported that the beaver was fast becoming extinct and recommended a complete close season for a period of from three to five years. The fur returns had shown a serious decline in the number of beaver pelts taken for the years immediately preceding 1928 and, on the recommendation of this Branch, a definite close season was established for three years from the 1st October, 1928, under P.C. 277 (copy enclosed) and the Minister was authorized to extend the close season for an additional two years, if such action was deemed advisable.

Following the epidemic of influenza, which was prevalent in the Mackenzie District in the fall of 1928, we received representations to have the beaver season reopened to the Indians, many of whom were in destitute circumstances. An order-in-council was passed, P.C. 2146, which authorized the head of each native family to capture fifteen beaver during the winter of 1928-29. The season remained closed during the winter of 1929-30, but due to the general scarcity of fur bearers and the low prices now being obtained for fur many of the Indians were again in destitute circumstances during the past winter, and P.C. 51 was passed to permit the head of each needy native family to take up to fifteen beaver. Since it has been necessary to reopen the season on the two occasions mentioned it is apparent that the beaver have not benefited as much as we had hoped when the close season was established.

In the fall of last year we asked the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and our own officers to submit their views on the beaver situation. A synopsis of the replies and recommendations received is attached. You will observe that many of those who replied recommend that the shooting of beaver be prohibited. I furnished Colonel Starnes with a copy of this summary and pointed out that the recommendations indicate that we would be justified in opening the season for the next two years for a period of two months to the heads of native families residing in the Mackenzie District, the bag limit to be fifteen beaver and that the shooting of beaver should be prohibited. He replied on the 20th ultimo and pointed out that in order to avoid too many changes in policy, which is confusing to the natives, it might be better to extend the system at present in vogue (P.C. 51) for a period of two years. The matter was referred to the Department of Indian Affairs and they concur in Colonel Starnes' suggestion.

From our standpoint there is no objection to extending the provisions of P.C. 51 and, as apparently this action would be satisfactory to the police, the Department of Indian Affairs and the natives, with your approval I shall place it on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Council of the North West Territories. If that body concurs in the suggestion the necessary Memorandum to Council will be prepared and submitted.

(Sgd.) O. S. Finnie.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CANADA
NORTH WEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON

Ottawa, 14th April, 1931.

Memorandum.

H. H. Rowatt, Esq.,
Deputy Minister.

In your memorandum of the 23rd February last it was stated that the Minister wanted to know whether the buffalo herd at Fort Smith had reached proportions which would justify the killing of a certain number for the purpose of supplying meat to indigent Indians as a regular arrangement. You requested me to wire our District Agent to ascertain the present size of the buffalo herd.

I gave you a memorandum about this on the 28th February but in the meantime I have a letter, dated the 28th March from Mr. McDougal to the effect that 100 animals might be killed annually without injury to the herd.

Last year we supplied 15 animals to the schools and hospitals of the Roman Catholic Missions at Chipewyan, Fort Smith and Resolution. After the kill had been completed and the meat distributed Bishop Breynat asked that a further number be killed for the use of certain needy Indian families. It was then too late in the season and this kill could not then be made. In the meantime Dr. Scott spoke to the Minister about it and I assume that your memorandum of the 23rd February last is a result of Dr. Scott's interview.

There is no doubt that a considerable number of animals could be killed annually without affecting the herd but the schools and Missions and Indians would not likely require 100 animals. I do not think they could use more than 25 or 30 and I see no reason why we might not inform both the Indian Department and Bishop Breynat that next fall we will be prepared to kill any required number up to say 30. The killing would be done by one or more of our own wardens and the meat brought out to the Hay camp or to some other point on the main trail. From that point the Indian Department or the R. C. Mission would be obliged to undertake their own transportation. The hides and heads would be retained by us, the best of which would be sent to Edmonton for dressing.

Last year the Anglican Mission was offered some of the buffalo meat but as their nearest school was at Hay River, 300 miles distant, the expense of transportation made it impossible to accept the Department's offer.

If it meets your approval I will notify Dr. Scott, as well as both the Anglican and the R. C. Mission, that a number of animals will be killed next November or December and that the meat will be turned over to them to be distributed as they deem advisable, at their expense.

(Sgd.) O. S. Finnie

File 4483 (N.W.T.)

AT THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AT OTTAWA

MONDAY, the 20th day of February, 1928.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL IN COUNCIL

P.C. No. 277.

WHEREAS Section 4, Subsection 1 (e), Chapter 141, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, "North-west Game Act," provides for a close season on beaver in the Northwest Territories between the fifteenth day of May and the first day of October;

And whereas under Section 4, Subsection 2 of the said Act the Governor in Council may, from time to time, alter the times fixed for any close season;

And whereas the Minister of the Interior reports that Game Officials of the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories, after investigation, advise that because of the intensive hunting and trapping, the beaver have been seriously depleted and in some areas, are almost extinct; and that the Director of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch, and the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection consider it advisable to declare a close season on beaver in the Mackenzie District for a period of years in order to give this valuable fur-bearer an opportunity to increase:

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior and under and in virtue of Section 4, Subsection 1 (e) and Subsection 2, Chapter 141, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, is hereby pleased to authorize the Minister of the Interior to declare a close season on beaver in the Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, for a period of three years, commencing the first day of October, 1928, and to extend such close season for an additional period of two years, if deemed expedient so to do.

(Signed) E. J. LEMAIRE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

To the Honourable
The Minister of the Interior.

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