

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- AGENDA -

Wednesday, 7th December, 1932.

3:00 p.m.

1. Representations of Hudson's Bay Company -
  - (a) Mr. Ralph Parsons, Fur Trade Commissioner.
  - (b) Mr. Geo. Watson, Manager, Ungava District.
  - (c) Mr. R. H. Bonrycastle, Manager, Western Arctic District.
  
2. Confirmation of Minutes -
 

Thirty-seventh Session - 9th November, 1932.
  
3. Matters of Urgent Importance -
  - (a) Importation of Reindeer, Mackenzie District -
    - (i) Interim report - Committee on Reindeer Policy.
    - (ii) Further exchange Baldwin correspondence.
    - (iii) Organization and departure Porsild party to meet herd.
  
  - (b) Northwest Game Regulations -
    - (i) Draft letter of instructions covering the beaver regulations and decision to limit hunting and trapping licenses.
    - (ii) Views of Department of Indian Affairs on game preserves and registered trap lines.
    - (iii) Representations of Great Bear Lake Prospectors Association.
  
  - (c) Northwest Territories & Yukon Radio System -
 

Discussion on present service and proposed extensions.
  
  - (d) Operation of Aircraft, Mackenzie District -
    - (i) Summer and winter landing fields, Fort Smith.
    - (ii) Aircraft registration, Fort Smith.
    - (iii) Airports - Herschel, Y.T., and Aklavik, N.W.T.
    - (iv) Operation of commercial aircraft.
  
  - (e) Establishment of Assay Office, Great Bear Lake.
  - (f) Conditions at Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
  - (g) Sick and Destitute, Chesterfield
  
4. Items to be dealt with at a later session -
  - (a) School Grants -
 

Grant to Shingle Point Residential School (Anglican).
  
  - (b) Fort Smith Portage Road Franchise.

(c).....

- (c) Insurance Agents' Registration.
- (d) Aeroarctic Society Subscription.
- (e) General Welfare of Inhabitants -  
Quarantine.  
(Still before Department of Justice).
- (f) Northern Waterways Limited -  
Incorporation.  
(Still before Department of Justice).
- (g) Relief Expeditions -
  - (i) Dr. H. K. E. Krueger.
  - (ii) International relief expeditions.
- (h) Medical Services -
  - (i) Possibility of supplying additional medical officers without increasing personnel.
  - (ii) Care of natives - chronic cases and aged at Coppermine and other districts.
- (i) Legislation -
  - (i) Coroners' fees.
  - (ii) Adoption illegitimate children.
  - (iii) Vital Statistics Ordinance.
  - (iv) Amendment Bills of Sale Ordinance  
(Awaiting return of Mr. A.L. Cumming).
- (j) Eskimo Destitution -
  - (i) Distribution and control of Eskimo relief.
  - (ii) Destitute Quebec Eskimo Policy.
- (k) Export of walrus tusks.

COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Session of the Northwest Territories Council, held on Wednesday, the 7th day of December, 1932, in the office of the Commissioner, Mr. H. H. Rowatt, at Ottawa.

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PRESENT -

|                                 |   |                     |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Mr. H. H. Rowatt (In the Chair) | - | Commissioner        |
| Mr. R. A. Gibson                | - | Deputy Commissioner |
| Dr. Charles Camsell             | - | Member of Council   |
| Major General J. H. MacBrien    | - | " "                 |
| Dr. H. W. McGill                | - | " "                 |
| Mr. K. R. Daly                  | - | " "                 |
| Major D. L. McKeand             | - | Secretary           |

IN ATTENDANCE -

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Mr. Ralph Parsons     | - | Fur Trade Commissioner, Hudson's Bay Company.                                  |
| Mr. R. H. Bonnycastle | - | Manager, Western Arctic District, Hudson's Bay Company.                        |
| Mr. C. C. Parker      | - | Inspector, Department of Indian Affairs.                                       |
| Mr. H. E. Hume        | - | Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.  |
| Mr. J. Lorne Turner   | - | Assistant Chairman, Dominion Lands Board.                                      |
| Mr. A. M. Narraway    | - | Associate Director of Topographical Surveys and Chief Aerial Surveys Engineer. |

1. Eastern Arctic -

The Commissioner welcomed Mr. Parsons and Mr. Bonnycastle, and in thanking Council Mr. Parsons stressed the importance of a spirit of close co-operation between representatives of the Government and of the Company.

(i) Eastern Arctic Voyage, Season 1933 - 5031-8

General MacBrien said that he expected that the Bache Peninsula detachment would be moved to Craig Harbour before next spring and that he might have word to that effect by March. He also said that he would like to close the Dundas Harbour post next year, unless there was some reason why it should be continued.

Mr. Parsons said that as soon as they had word as to Government requirements the Hudson's Bay Company could submit a quotation. He added that so far as the Company was concerned there was no need for the ship to call at Chesterfield. General MacBrien said that from a Police standpoint this call was unnecessary and Mr. Gibson expressed the opinion that so far as the Interior Department was concerned the Chesterfield call might be otherwise arranged if necessary.

The question of whether the cost of the 1933 expedition should be arranged by the Interior Department or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was mentioned briefly and is to be decided upon immediately.

- (ii) Trading Operations in Arctic Islands Preserve -
- (iii) Transfer of Natives -

Mr. Parsons mentioned that the Company had asked for permission to move a number of natives to Craig Harbour and to

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open a trading post there, provided there was some likelihood of the Police post being maintained for a reasonable length of time.

Mr. Gibson expressed the opinion that there would be a Government post on Ellesmere Island for some years to come. It was understood that Mr. Parsons would write the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories about this.

(iv) Proposed temporary closing of trading posts at Amadjuak and Wager Inlet -

Mr. Parsons said the Hudson's Bay Company proposed to discontinue the trading posts at Amadjuak, Wager Inlet and River Clyde as the price of furs no longer made it profitable for them to maintain trading posts at these points. He added that so far as the natives at Amadjuak were concerned there were two other trading posts within 100 miles at which the Eskimos conducted their business before the Amadjuak post was opened. At River Clyde there were only about twelve families. These would be moved to Craig Harbour if the post permit applied for were granted. Mr. Parsons agreed to write the Commissioner giving details of their plans.

(v) Northwest Territories Game Laws -

(a) Exportation Tax.

Mr. Parsons said his Company thought the royalty on furs was too high if present day values of pelts were considered. He appreciated, however, under present circumstances a reduction might be difficult as the Provinces are maintaining their taxes without change. It was understood that the matter would be submitted departmentally.

(b) Wolf Bounties -

Mr. Bonnycastle said that their trading post at Bathurst Inlet had accepted a number of wolf pelts and allowed the natives goods to the extent of \$30 per pelt before it was possible to get word to that post that the bounty had been reduced. He thought bounty at the former rate should be granted, assuring Council that if there had been an increase in bounty the Company would not expect the Department to pay bounty at the higher rate in the case of pelts turned in to their post, before word of the increase reached there, or as an alternative the natives would be allowed the difference. He said there were 55 wolf pelts involved.

In answer to an enquiry Mr. Bonnycastle expressed the opinion that the authority for the acceptance of pelts was arranged with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and District Agent McDougal so as to serve natives located too far from Police posts to make it worth their while travelling to a Police post to turn in the wolf pelts and said that if the Company did not accept these wolf pelts it might work a hardship on the natives who perhaps had nothing else to offer in exchange for needed goods.

The opinion was expressed that the Company only turned in wolf pelts not worth more than the amount of the bounty. Mr. Parsons said no wolf pelts were worth more than \$20. Mr. Gibson answered that the Department of the Interior obtained more than this amount in certain cases at the last sale. Mr. Bonnycastle said that every wolf pelt accepted by the Hudson's Bay Company in the Western Arctic had been turned in for bounty.

It was pointed out that many of the Provinces had reduced the bounty on wolves or done away with the bounty altogether and that there is a possibility of a further reduction in the Northwest Territories bounty. Mr. Parsons said that if the bounty were further reduced his Company would probably not be able to handle wolf pelts at all. It was understood that the matter would be submitted departmentally.

## (c) Trapping Season -

Mr. Parsons said that the open seasons were satisfactory with the exception of that provided for white foxes. He thought this should be from the 1st November to the 30th April. It was claimed these pelts were prime from the 15th October - in fact he had known them to be prime from the 1st October until June. Mr. Gibson said this matter would have to be taken up with local officials of the Government. It was understood that Mr. Parsons would write the Commissioner about this.

## (d) White trappers -

Mr. Parsons expressed approval of the restrictions with respect to the licensing of white trappers. In answer to a query he said that the Hudson's Bay Company did not expect the department to issue licenses to any of their new employees unless otherwise qualified under the regulations.

## (e) Transfer, under permit, of deerskins from Northwest Territories points to Northern Quebec -

Mr. Parsons thought that the transfer of deerskins from the Northwest Territories to Northern Quebec should be permitted. He cited an extreme case of where a native had been moved by another trading company from Northern Quebec to the Northwest Territories and on his return was not permitted to take out of the Territories two skin suits he had purchased there. He said that the Company had been bringing into Northern Quebec reindeer skins from Alaska, but that these skins were not as good as caribou skins, particularly as underwear. It was understood that Mr. Parsons would write the Commissioner about this.

In answer to a query Mr. Parsons expressed the opinion that buffalo hides would be an excellent substitute for caribou skins for Eskimo bedding.

Mr. Parsons again stressed the importance of a spirit of co-operation between the Company and the Government. He said it was too bad that in certain cases there had been ill feeling between representatives of the Company and of the Government, but that now there was an excellent spirit displayed throughout the whole of the Territories.

(vi) Western Arctic Matters -

## (a) Trading post operated by native Angoolalik -

Mr. Parsons said that this native, Angoolalik, was at present operating a trading post at Perry River. This was a point located by the Hudson's Bay Company some years ago but with the establishment of Arctic Islands Preserve they were not permitted to continue operations. He said Angoolalik was carrying on operations for the Canalaska Trading Company. He did not feel that it was desired that trading at this point should be diverted to another company and said Angoolalik started trading after the preserve had been established.

Mr. Parsons pointed out that when the Hudson's Bay Company was told to close their post at Perry River they suggested that they be allowed to place a native in charge but were not permitted by the Department to do so.

It was understood that the matter would be submitted departmentally.

## (b) Canalaska Trading Company Post established with permit for Walker Bay -

Mr. Bonnycastle said that last year the Canalaska Trading Company established a post at Walker Bay, which is in the native game preserve, and which is apparently some distance from the

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point mentioned in the post permit. They understood that when a post permit was granted for a definite position the permittee was required to locate there. He also expressed the opinion that when one company located at a certain point and developed trade another company should not be permitted to establish itself at a point where they could intercept the natives coming in to trade. He seemed to think that they should be required to locate their post near the one already established.

It was pointed out that the primary responsibility of Council was the welfare of the natives, but the representations of the Company were appreciated and it was thought that the matter might require local information.

It was understood that the matter would be submitted departmentally.

(c) Permit for post on Banks Land -

Mr. Parsons decided not to make any application at present.

(d) Refund for License which W. F. Joss was obliged to take out at Reid Island -

It was stated that at this particular post the Manager absented himself for a short period and during his absence the Mounted Police Officer came along and made the assistant take out a second license. It was requested that the second license fee be refunded. It was understood that the matter would be submitted departmentally.

(e) Undesirable activities of Dr. Urquhart at Aklavik -

Mr. Parsons said he did not want to make any official representations in this regard, but he thought the situation at Aklavik warranted investigation by the Department. He expressed the opinion that Dr. Urquhart was not a desirable type of representative and as natives were great imitators it was important that white representatives of trading companies or of the Government in outlying settlements should be men of good character. He said that Aklavik was a dirty, disreputable place and the natives were permitted to carry on in an improper manner. He said he was not suggesting that there was immorality on the part of Dr. Urquhart. He did not think Government employees should themselves trade or help other traders. ✓

Mr. Gibson said that the Department had always considered Dr. Urquhart was one of its good men and he asked whether Mr. Parsons could not be more specific in his charges. Mr. Parsons did not care to be more definite and Mr. Gibson said that Mr. Austin L. Cumming, who was at Aklavik last summer, would probably have some information on the matter.

Dr. McGill asked whether Mr. Parsons intended to suggest that Dr. Urquhart was neglecting his official duties and Mr. Parsons said he was making that suggestion.

This is to be put on the Agenda for the first meeting Mr. Cumming is here.

(f) Removal of Eskimo families from overcrowded areas to better trapping grounds, viz. Fort Collinson and Banks Land -

Mr. Parsons asked whether the Department would permit the Company to move natives from an overcrowded or trapped out area to a point where they thought the chances of making a better living were good.

Mr. Gibson asked whether the Company would expect the Department to furnish relief in the event of the new area not proving up to the Company's expectations. It was also pointed out that the Department was making plans in connection with the reindeer

experiment.....

experiment and must know of movements of native Eskimo population.

Mr. Parsons pointed out that the areas under discussion were in the Western Arctic where the Department had not provided relief on the ground that as the Company had the field to themselves they should look after needy natives.

Mr. Hume asked whether the Company would be in touch with the Department before a move was made. Mr. Parsons said that generally speaking the answer would be yes, although sometimes it would be desirable to move natives immediately it became apparent their district was unsuitable, and that it would not always be possible to communicate with the Department in time to secure authority to make the move that year.

It was understood Mr. Parsons would write the Commissioner about this.

(g) Civil redress against Debtors in  
Northwest Territories -

Mr. Bonnycastle said that District Agent McDougal had circulated the traders in the Mackenzie District asking whether they would have any cases to bring before a magistrate in the event of a magistrate visiting the District next season. He said the Company does not expect to have any cases to present.

The Secretary asked what about white and half-breed debtors. Mr. Parsons said the Company found it was a bad policy to revert to law for the collection of debts, that they had to take considerable losses - the amounts depending largely on their managers.

Mr. Daly said a number of people in Edmonton had been complaining bitterly about the difficulty in obtaining a judgment against debtors in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Parsons said he could not think of any such case that the Hudson's Bay Company had ever taken to Court.

At the close of the hearing of Messrs. Parsons and Bonnycastle's representations Mr. Gibson said that the Northwest Territories Council and the Department of the Interior valued very much the friendly spirit in which they had come, which went far to advance co-operation. Mr. Parsons thanked Council for the opportunity of presenting their views. Messrs. Parsons and Bonnycastle then withdrew.

2. Confirmation of Minutes -

The Minutes of the Thirty-seventh Session of Council, held on Wednesday the 9th day of November, 1932, having been sent to all members of Council, it was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Daly, that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

3. Matters of Urgent Importance -

(a) Importation of Reindeer, Mackenzie District -

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|--|--------|
| (i) Interim Report - Committee on Reindeer Policy. | - 7525 |
| (ii) Further exchange Baldwin correspondence.      | - 4819 |

The Secretary reported that the Committee appointed to study the matter of reindeer policy had met on the 21st November, at which time they had an informal discussion. Since then Mr. Hoyes Lloyd had been added to the Committee and information was now being gotten together and would be circulated to the members of the Committee, after which another meeting would be held. He said that they were awaiting a reply to a letter addressed to Mr. Baldwin, who is at present absent from New York.

Major McKeand added that Mr. Parsons was not favourably disposed towards the reindeer experiment. He thought what

he had said regarding the unsuitability of reindeer skins was not borne out by facts. Mr. Parsons compared skins from mature reindeer whereas it was the practice to utilize those of fawns for underclothing.

- (iii) Organization and departure Porsild party to meet herd. - 4819

The Secretary read a telegraphic report dated the 28th November from Mr. A. E. Porsild to the effect that Mr. R. T. Porsild, together with three Lapps and four teams had left to meet the reindeer herd.

Mr. Hume suggested for the consideration of Council that this Committee should take this matter up with a certain amount of celerity as it was going to take some time to dispose of the matter even when the Committee's report had been received. It would have to be considered by the Northwest Territories Council, by the Minister and probably by the Governor General in Council and some instructions should be placed in the hands of Mr. A. E. Porsild at Kittigazuit as soon as the herd arrives.

Mr. Gibson stressed the importance of getting in touch with Bishops Geddes, Breynat and Turquetil while they are in the East in case it would be necessary to discuss immediately certain features of reindeer policy.

(b) Northwest Game Regulations -

- (i) Draft letter of instructions covering the beaver regulations and decision to limit hunting and trapping licenses. - 7332  
4483

The draft letter of instructions to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police covering the Beaver Regulations was not available, but it was reported briefly that Order in Council (P.C. 2634), dated the 2nd December, 1932, authorized the issue of beaver permits to "any male over the age of eighteen years who, on the 30th June, 1932, had the status of a resident under the Northwest Game Regulations, or to any male who was a holder of a hunting and trapping license during the license year ended 30th June, 1932."

This is slightly different to the recently approved regulations regarding the issue of hunting and trapping licenses. In the latter case licenses may only be granted to those who held such licenses on the 30th June, 1932, whereas a beaver permit might be issued to not only those who held permits on the 30th June, 1932, but in addition those who could qualify as "residents" under the Northwest Game Regulations on that date. In other words, a "resident" might be granted a permit to take beaver, although he was not entitled to a general hunting and trapping license.

Mr. Hume said that it had been pointed out to him that since the 30th June last a few hunting and trapping licenses had been issued to "residents" of the Territories, and that in order to take care of any further cases of the same nature that might arise he recommended that the effective date of the new restrictions regarding the issue of hunting and trapping licenses be fixed as the 1st January, 1933. He said that this would take care of the few cases where residents had been granted licenses subsequent to 30th June, 1932, and that it was not likely there would be more than one or two additional cases as practically all trappers are now out on their trap lines.

It was moved by Mr. Daly, seconded by Dr. Camsell, that Mr. Hume's suggestion be adopted. Carried.

- (ii) Views of Department of Indian Affairs on game preserves and registered trap lines. - 2750



(iii) Representations of Great Bear Lake  
Prospectors Association. - 7474

Mr. Gibson said that since the last meeting of the Northwest Territories Council Dr. McGill had written to the Commissioner in reply to a request for a definition of the areas required permanently as native game preserves.

The Secretary read Dr. McGill's letter of the 1st December, 1932, in which the opinion was expressed that the trap line system would not meet with any measure of success in the Northwest Territories; that the present native preserves are serving a very useful purpose even though all Indians do not confine their hunting and trapping activities to the preserves; that it is not thought that Indians could successfully be confined to any area which might be set aside, and that the best solution to the conservation problem is the gradual elimination of the white trapper.

General MacBrien said that he had not heard from all his officers who had been asked to report on the matter of registered trap lines.

Mr. Gibson read a telegram addressed to the Minister of the Interior by a newly formed Prospectors Association of Great Bear Lake, in which it was requested that hunting and trapping licenses be issued to bona fide prospectors. It was pointed out that these people were all warned that they would have to be adequately provisioned and that they must not expect to live off the country.

Dr. Camsell said that he appreciated the position of these prospectors and that it was the practice in the provinces for prospectors to carry on hunting and trapping operations in conjunction with their prospecting.

In answer to Dr. McGill's query, Mr. Gibson expressed the opinion that these prospectors did not only want the right to kill caribou for food, which they could do under the present regulations without a license, but wanted the privilege of trapping fur bearing animals as well.

It was thought that the matter might be made the subject of reports from the Departments of Indian Affairs, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Interior, and that Mr. A. L. Cumming, Inspector Parker and a representative of the Department of Mines, might get together and prepare an analysis of the whole question. Dr. Camsell is to furnish the name of the representative of the Department of Mines. Information is to be secured from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec as to the practice permitted in the northern portions of these Provinces, particularly in Quebec where hunting in the northern portions is restricted to native population.

It was moved by Mr. Gibson, seconded by General MacBrien, that the last mentioned recommendations be approved by Council. Carried.

## (c) Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio System -

(i) Discussion on present service  
and proposed extensions. - 320-5

Mr. Gibson said that when Colonel Mulock was here he mentioned that the National Defence Department intended establishing wireless stations at points where service was already available, further that one of the sites proposed (Slemon Lake) was some distance from the settlement (Rae). He added that the Deputy Minister of National Defence had afforded the Northwest Territories Council an opportunity of placing its representations before the National Defence Department in this matter as well as in the matter of aeroplane registration.

Mr. Narraway said that at or near Cameron Bay there were four wireless stations. These were operated by the Great Bear Lake News Company, the Consolidated Smelters, Canadian Airways and the Department of National Defence, and that this difficulty was repeated at McMurray where wireless stations

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had been erected by the Canadian Airways and the Department of National Defence. He had ascertained this morning that the Department had not had full information at the time it was recommended that the National Defence Department wireless station be moved to Cameron Bay. (There were two other privately owned stations at or near Cameron Bay.) In 1931 the Department of National Defence intended locating stations at different points in the Territories and filed plans to this effect and actually built the wireless sets, but the plans had to be abandoned because of lack of funds. The question now was whether the Government should leave the situation to private enterprise. It was expected that this month at McMurray both Government and Canadian Airways stations would be in operation. The Public Works Department had certain objections from the standpoint of interference with the operation of the land lines. He thought Council should recommend avoiding duplication of service. The matter is to be discussed at a special meeting of the Inter-departmental Committee on wireless services on Friday of this week.

General MacBrien said that it struck him that there was no permanency in privately owned stations.

In answer to a query Mr. Narraway said that he thought Canadian Airways equipment was just as efficient as the Government owned stations and expressed the opinion that if private companies were going ahead establishing stations the Government should not be expected to provide wireless service and should not take any action that might interfere with their business. He said Canadian Airways had made arrangements for the handling of private messages and were operating under permit from the Department of Marine.

Mr. Gibson mentioned that Mr. Narraway would be representing the Department of the Interior at this meeting and would bring back a report. The Commissioner is to write the Deputy Minister of National Defence asking for an opportunity of looking over the plans before final decision is made.

(d) Operation of Aircraft, Mackenzie District -

- (1) Summer and winter landing fields,  
Fort Smith.

- 6372

Mr. Gibson again mentioned that Council had been afforded an opportunity of submitting its views in regard to the registration of aeroplanes entering the Northwest Territories. It was thought that provision might be made under the Air Regulations for the compulsory registration of all planes entering the Territories. General MacBrien pointed out that all aeroplanes entering the Territories did not pass over Fort Smith. It was thought that there should be a central registry of all such planes at Fort Smith, reports being made by wire to Fort Smith direct to any detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to be reported by wire to Fort Smith, or by stopping at Fort Smith en route.

Mr. Hume expressed the opinion that some penalty should be provided for failure to report. This was generally agreed to. Mr. Hume further suggested that he get in touch with whatever officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police General MacBrien might suggest and Mr. Narraway for the purpose of drafting a suitable communication to the Department of National Defence for the signature of the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. This was approved by Council.

Council then adjourned.

*H. St. Lawrence*

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Commissioner

*A. McQuaid*  
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Secretary