

The name North-Western Territory (rather than North-West Territory or Indian Territory) has been used in the Introduction, footnotes, etc. for the pre-1870 region. For the post-1870 period, the spelling Northwest Territories has been used throughout, even though North-West Territories was more common in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Grammatical errors and portions of text that do not make sense are followed by [*sic*], unless an amendment in square brackets could be used to correct the mistake or clarify the meaning.

Punctuation has been rendered as carefully as possible, but because in many cases it was necessary to work from microfilm copies, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

Punctuation has been silently amended where it was clearly a mistake (for example, a comma at the end of a sentence) and silently added where it was missing and no other form of punctuation was possible. Short dashes, often used as a sort of all-purpose punctuation in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, have silently been replaced by periods, commas, colons, or en-dashes, according to what seemed most appropriate in particular cases. Em-dashes in printed documents have been replaced by en-dashes.

The convention of placing quotation marks at the beginning of each line of an offset long quotation has not been reproduced; however, such quoted passages do have quotation marks at the beginning and end, since the way in which long quotations are placed in some documents might otherwise be confusing to readers.

Other amendments to punctuation made for the sake of clarity, such as added commas and colons, have been placed within square brackets.

In cases where transcriptions are conjectural, the words about which uncertainty exists are placed within square brackets and followed by a question mark.

Abbreviated words have not been expanded unless their meaning might otherwise be unclear.

Cancelled words or phrases are included only if significant. They are indicated by a strikethrough.

The great majority of documents are printed in their entirety, but in some cases omissions were required because of excessive length, irrelevant material, or material that merely reproduced the contents of another document in the volume. Such omissions are indicated by an ellipsis within square brackets ([...]). In some cases, the omitted material is summarized in a footnote. An ellipsis without square brackets is part of the document.

Signatures on non-original documents, whether handwritten, typewritten, stamped, or absent, have been placed within square brackets.

Documents that are referred to in other documents, but are not themselves printed here, are identified with a dagger (†). When a document that has been printed here is referred to in another document, no cross-reference is provided if