

another expense of \$600, and now I understand that he is being brought back at once from Dawson to Ottawa at an approximate expense of \$450. That means that a total will have been paid out of some \$10,840, when, as a matter of fact, not a dollar more than \$6,500 should have been paid. That means that there will have been unnecessarily spent prior to this date for that year some \$4,340, or, over the two years, 1923 and 1924, no less a sum than \$11,287. The minister may be able to get results that will justify that expenditure, but I doubt it. He has done me the honour of saying that I have had some experience in that northern country and know something of the capabilities of the various officials there. For some reason or another, this new office and this expedition of 1925 seem to be getting a good deal of newspaper publicity, all the way from Dawson City to Montreal. I find it in the Dawson daily paper in these words:

Mr. Mackenzie is back in the Yukon to wind up certain government matters, as well as to settle private affairs, before he leaves to assume his new duties in the capital. . . . In speaking of his new office, Mr. Mackenzie said that he would be in charge of the organization and operation of expeditions by both land and sea in northern areas of Canada with headquarters in Ottawa. Canada has decided to establish jurisdiction over her remote northern islands in order to prevent possible misunderstandings with other countries in the future, and also to explore and develop those possessions.

The Montreal Gazette in a despatch from Vancouver states:

During this summer Canada will organize an administration body and police for all the islands that have been discovered in the Arctic region, and which the Dominion claims as part of this country.

That would be a pretty big organization.

For this purpose, George P. Mackenzie, former gold commissioner of the Yukon, who has arrived from the north, has been given an assignment that, in point of territory over which he becomes the chief executive, is the most expansive that has been placed under the jurisdiction of any person heretofore—

Evidently it is a very wide kingdom that is being established.

—for it embraces that part of the Arctic on the Atlantic ocean side as well as the Pacific. The first expedition to bring order into the Arctic outposts and to report on the natural resources of the far-off Canadian possessions, will leave on July 1 under the leadership of Mr. Mackenzie, who will have a staff of geologists and other experts in this party.

En route to Ottawa to complete the preparations for the first expedition, which will be by vessel to the north Atlantic, Mr. Mackenzie has arrived here.

I do not know whether the government desires to create the impression that such an important and according to the newspaper, expensive undertaking is about to begin. In the early days Yukon was swamped with ex-

pensive officialdom inaugurated by the government of the party which is now in power in Canada; and on the face of it it would seem that they are now transferring their ingenuity in that direction into the Arctic and the Northwest Territories. Certainly I cannot conceive of any good reason why such preparations as these should be made. We had it from the minister to-day that nothing out of the ordinary was to be done by this Arctic expedition this year although apparently from other sources a good deal more is reported as about to be undertaken. The government is maintaining a complete and efficient staff of officials in connection with the Northwest Territories and Yukon and it is only comparatively recently that the office of Director of the Northwest Territories and Yukon branch was created. I do not say that it was unnecessary, but such an office was created; and in charge of the branch is a gentleman well versed in northern affairs and with a long official experience. Only a short time ago the duties of that office were all discharged by the Superintendent of Mining Lands and Yukon branch. I do not know whether the work in that branch has so expanded in recent years as to justify the creation of this new office, but the fact is that this has been done. I think the government would have been well advised to let things remain as they were and to take the advice of the Director of the Northwest Territories on such matters as will now come under the new office of chief of Arctic expeditions. The director is certainly capable of advising the government on these questions and he has at hand plenty of expert advisers now in the service. If the government had desired to go further they could have got advice also from probably the best qualified man in the Dominion to inform them upon all these matters; I refer to the Right Rev. Bishop Stringer, Bishop of Yukon, who has spent some thirty years of his life within the Arctic circle among the natives in the course of his labours. I can refer the government to another man, who is in the service of the country, Mr. John Hawksley, Indian agent in Yukon. This gentleman has spent from twenty to thirty years in the service of the church as well, among the Eskimos and northern Indians. Both these gentlemen know these people very well and are thoroughly acquainted with their habits, having made this practically a life work; and I am sure the government could have had their advice for the asking.

The government has created the new office at a cost of \$8,000 a year. It has increased