

Canadian sector.) As well as being officially conveyed to the State Department through diplomatic correspondence, the Canadian claim was publicly put forward by Minister Stewart in Parliament on 10 June³³ and through the press on 12 June.³⁴ Accordingly, Washington's failure to protest could be considered as tacit acquiescence. Without backing from his government, MacMillan was obliged to apply for a Canadian permit in 1926 (doc. 412) and later years.

Unlike the Americans, many British officials found the arguments in favour of Canada's sector claim persuasive (docs 384, 393). Sir Charles Davis of the Dominions Office harked back to the Bering Sea arbitration, apparently grasping intuitively the basis of the Canadian theory. When the Soviet Union made its own sector claim in 1926, Britain did not protest, in order to safeguard both the Canadian claim in the Arctic and its own claims in the Antarctic (doc. 423). Canada, meanwhile, proceeded to further integrate the sector theory with its state practice through the creation of the Arctic Islands Game Preserve, the eastern and western boundaries of which followed the sector lines to the Pole (docs 402, 415, 417). Further infractions of Canadian laws and regulations by MacMillan and another American explorer, George Putnam, were easily handled (docs 432, 433, 436, 454, 455).

It appeared that the only potential remaining obstacle to general international recognition of Canada's sovereignty over the entire archipelago was the shadowy Norwegian claim. The Norwegian inquiries had continued (docs 404, 421), even as the first RCMP patrols to the Sverdrup Islands were carried out. In March 1928 Norway stated that it wished to reserve its rights gained by Sverdrup's discoveries (doc. 428). However, this move was part of Oslo's plan to obtain sovereignty over Bouvet Island in the Antarctic, which was also claimed by Britain. The Norwegian minister in London argued that his country had the better claim to Bouvet Island on the basis of a recent visit and intended occupation. He added that if British policy was not to regard occupation as the key criterion for sovereignty, Norway could well make difficulties for Canada with regard to Sverdrup's discoveries. The matter of Bouvet Island was amicably settled to Norway's satisfaction, but without any explicit agreement that there would be no Norwegian claim to the Sverdrup Islands (doc. 435). Canadian officials therefore wondered whether Norway might yet try to challenge Canada's title (doc. 437).

Part Five, 1929-1939

In 1929-1930 the matter of the Sverdrup Islands was settled in a manner that (despite a few missteps) reflected credit on Canada's developing capabilities in the area of international diplomacy. With the close of the Bouvet Island dispute, the Norwegian government believed it had no further use for the Sverdrup Islands as a bargaining tool, and the Foreign Ministry therefore informed Sverdrup that he was

³³ Canada, *House of Commons Debates*, 14th Parliament, 4th session, vol. 168, pp. 4069, 4084.

³⁴ "Canada's Claims are Explained," *New York Times*, 13 June 1925, p. 17.