

expedition seems to have caused little, if any, alarm among Canadian politicians, but White was keenly alive to the possible sovereignty ramifications.

The 1897 Order-in-Council had called for legislation to endorse the boundaries it set out. However, in 1898 the new Minister of Justice, David Mills, concluded that legislation was unnecessary, and none was ever introduced (docs 89, 90). White therefore worried that the boundaries might not be valid,¹⁶ leaving Canada with no way to contest any possible future claim to Sverdrup's discoveries by Sweden-Norway (or, after the separation of the two countries in 1905, by the newly independent Norway). While he was always a strong proponent of occupation and administration within the sector (see doc. 315), White also knew that paper claims could have an effect, provided that other nations did not protest against them. He therefore chose official maps as a useful way to reaffirm the 1897 boundaries.

The maps that White prepared for the King report not only showed the sector lines but extended them to the Pole, thus adding what is generally considered the most characteristic element of the sector theory.¹⁷ White took other steps to help forestall any foreign claim. As a member of the Geographic Board of Canada,¹⁸ in 1905 he arranged for the official naming of Sverdrup's new islands.¹⁹ In the same year, he recommended to the Minister of Justice, Charles Fitzpatrick, that the Canadian claim should be defined by an act of Parliament (doc. 156). White's advocacy of a claim extending to the Pole, therefore, dated from well before Senator Pascal Poirier's famous 1907 speech.²⁰ Accordingly, the common belief among historians that Poirier was the originator of the sector theory must be rejected.

Prime Minister Laurier was convinced that more occupation was necessary before a broad territorial claim could be put forward (docs 121, 157). Following Moodie's recommendations, in 1904 Laurier approved the establishment of two new posts by the next government expedition. One was to be placed at Cape Wolstenholme on the Ungava Peninsula and the other on Baffin Island (doc. 146). Bernier had been hired to command the expedition, but it soon became clear that his real intention was to make his way to the North Pole if possible. Moodie was therefore placed in charge instead. For various reasons, including the lateness of

¹⁶ White, "Place-Names in Northern Canada," *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, 3rd ser., vol. 4 (1910), sec. 4, p. 37n.

¹⁷ Although the King report was for internal government use only, at least one of the maps appears to have been made publicly available. The public map of Canada's territorial divisions in White's 1906 *Atlas of Canada* showed the 1897 sector lines, but since the map did not include the Pole, the sector lines did not extend to it. The lines also appeared in the 1915 edition of the *Atlas of Canada* without the polar apex.

¹⁸ Now the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

¹⁹ See LAC, RG 21, vol. 153, file 41, and *Sixth Report of the Geographic Board of Canada, Containing all Decisions to June 30, 1906*, Sessional Papers, 1907, vol. 41-9, no. 21a, pp. 14, 56.

²⁰ See Canada, *Senate Debates*, 10th Parliament, 3rd session, pp. 266-274.