

Louis XIV that this policy was established through the colonization plans of the great Colbert. The bachelors were watched with a vigilant eye. They were not given land or allowed to travel or engage in trade. But when they chose a bride many privileges became available. Their brides were dowered by the King. The bride of Jacques Bernier brought him 25 écus two and a half guineas, or \$12.50. Certainly, \$12.50 was worth a good deal more then than it is today.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Anyway Bernier says at page 323 of his own biography, and the book is shot through with phrases of this nature:

—I took possession of Ellesmere Island and all the islands explored by the Sverdrup expedition and then hastened homeward—

The last Canadian island in the Arctic to be taken for Canada was one taken by Wilhjalmur Stefansson in 1915. This account, in 1908, by Bernier in his log is very interesting, and I am reading from page of 343 of his book "Master Mariner":

Dominion Day was celebrated by all on board; all our flags were flying and the day itself was all that could be desired. At dinner we drank a toast to the Dominion and the Premier of Canada; then all assembled around Parry's Rock to witness the unveiling of a tablet sculptured by J. V. Koenig, our first engineer, and placed on the Rock, commemorating the annexation of the whole of the Arctic archipelago. I briefly referred to the important event in connection with the granting to Canada by the Imperial government on September 1st, 1880, all the British territory in the northern waters of the continent of America and Arctic ocean, from 60 degrees west longitude to 141 degrees west longitude, and as far north as 90 degrees, that is to say to the North Pole. Three cheers were given in honour of the Premier, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries of Canada, and the men dispersed for the balance of the day to enjoy themselves.

There was no doubt in those days that Canada owned her Arctic. In the debates of 1925 when Mr. Stewart, who had the same responsibilities now discharged by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) but was called the Minister of the Interior, said at page 4083 in answer to a question from Mr. Garland, then the member for Bow River:

If expeditions from foreign countries desire to go into that north country I think the least they can do is to obtain a permit from the government of the Northwest Territories to enter what is clearly our land.

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Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill

Again, at page 4084 Mr. Stewart answered a question by Mr. McQuarrie. Mr. McQuarrie asked:

How far north does the jurisdiction of Canada extend? Do we take in the North Pole?

Mr. Stewart said:

We claim that we go to it.

Mr. McQuarrie said:

The minister has heard that the United States has laid claim to the North Pole.

Mr. Stewart said:

Canada claims the territory outlined between the degrees of longitude 60 and 141 but I have nothing to say regarding any claim the United States may make. They have Alaska and naturally they will lay claim to land north of their territory there, which would be adjacent to ours.

Mr. McQuarrie then asked:

Will they have the North Pole?

Mr. Stewart replied:

I do not suppose any nation can lay claim to the North Pole.

Mr. McQuarrie then said:

I am serious in the question.

Mr. Stewart said:

In order to protect Canada's interests we have made our position clear. According to international law we can claim any territory lying one hundred miles off our explored coasts. But no one knows definitely what land there is in the unexplored region; to reach it the explorer must go either from the coast of Alaska or through Canadian territory.

Mr. Stewart made it clear in the debates of that year that at that time Canada laid claim to all of the Arctic archipelago between degrees 60 and 141 up to the North Pole. Why then must we hear our Prime Minister say today that the legislation is not an assertion of sovereignty, but rather an exercise in our desire to keep the Arctic free of pollution? We heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs state yesterday during an exchange between the minister and my seat mate that there was no divergence of opinion between himself and the Prime Minister. Then, the hon. member asked him how he explained the statement of the Prime Minister in a press release concerning this legislation in which he said:

This is the first bit of legislation—

It is not an assertion of sovereignty; it is an exercise of our desire to keep the Arctic free of pollution—

And then further on, it is stated:

—we are indicating that our assertion there is not one aimed towards sovereignty, but aimed towards one of the very important aspects of our action in the Arctic.