

Northwest Territories Act

Northwest Territories. That arrangement would be more likely to meet the interests of justice, as well as those of the judge himself. He would be required, either by flying or by some other method, to go many thousands of miles. I do not see why we do not have a separate judge for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Winters: Although the territory is large the population is not dense, and the load of work is not too heavy. I believe one judge could handle it adequately. However, in the event of his not being able to be in a certain place at a certain time, provision will be made for the appointment of a deputy judge. There are also other provisions in the act for concurrent jurisdiction which I believe will meet what the hon. member has in mind. Certainly he will have the opportunity to consider the matter thoroughly when the bill is before us.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): What are the present charges on the federal revenue for administering this territory? What will be the increased cost after the new legislation is enacted?

Mr. Winters: The total expenditures on administration of the Northwest Territories, for all purposes, is of the order of \$10 million. This measure contemplates no increase in over-all expenditures. It is a realignment rather than an increase of revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): For what purposes is the major portion of the \$10 million used? What revenues accrue to the dominion government through the control of this territory, and its administration under the act?

Mr. Winters: A typical breakdown is for the fiscal year 1948-49. I also have the subsequent year 1949-50, which shows total expenditures to be \$7,963,000 broken up as follows:

Department	Expenditures
Agriculture	\$ 19,828
Citizenship and immigration—Indian affairs	874,255
Fisheries	112,858
Labour	8,121
Mines and technical surveys	169,168
National defence	1,292,270
National health and welfare	474,064
Post office	335,914
Public works	324,595
Resources and development	2,068,440
Northwest Territories power commission	462,572
R.C.M.P.	459,770
Veterans affairs	18,536
Transport	1,342,988

Mr. Black (Cumberland): What revenue accrues to the federal government?

Mr. Winters: The revenue corresponding to that total figure of expenditure was \$720,000.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): Does the minister consider \$25 a day as adequate compensation for these elected members?

Mr. Winters: That is just the living allowance. There is an indemnity in addition of \$50 per day.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): That is for the days of sitting of the council?

Mr. Winters: That is right.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): I suggest that there should be an indemnity similar to that paid to members of the provincial legislature. These men devote a lot of time to this work and have great distances to travel. They have a lot of details to look after for the trappers, miners, Indians and others up in that part of the country.

I should like to ask the minister if consideration has been given to picking out some central point where a capital could be established for the Northwest Territories, probably at Fort Simpson.

Mr. Winters: The administrative headquarters are now at Fort Smith, which seems to be a pretty good point. This is the channel through which traffic flows into and out of the territories. The seat of government is at Ottawa, but Fort Smith provides a satisfactory administrative headquarters.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): It would be typical of Canada to pick out Fort Smith because it is at the southern limits of the Northwest Territories, just as Victoria is out in the Pacific ocean at the southwestern limits of British Columbia. It all adds very much to the confusion of the situation. It is actually below the 49th parallel. I would suggest that a site be picked out in the centre of the Northwest Territories which would be convenient to all parts of the district. The government could be installed there with the view of having a province established later on in that part of Canada.

Mr. Green: Provision is made for appointing a clerk of the court and a sheriff. Will these people have to fly over from Whitehorse to the Northwest Territories?

Mr. Winters: I think not. I think they would be deputized at the place at which the court is to meet. I must say that I am not sure on these details at the moment and I think we shall have to work some of them out as we go along. I shall be glad to give my hon. friend more information in respect to that point when the bill is before the committee.

Mr. Black (Cumberland): Where are the records having to do with the administration kept at the present time, and where is it proposed to keep them? I would suppose that