

impossible at this time to say. The length of the boundary is of the order of 1,000 miles running through an undeveloped and inaccessible area. I recommend—and Commission agreed—that we should approach you for guidance before initiating discussions with Canada.

3. The need for the consideration of the problem arises from the fact that Labrador Mining and Exploration Company has demonstrated the existence of large iron ore deposits and there is a probability that some of them are actually cut by the meandering and indefinite line which might be the boundary line in the particular area.

4. I was surprised to learn from Howse that no survey had followed the Privy Council Award. There must, of course, have been a reason. There is a possibility that, at this stage, there would be no necessity for the determination of the full boundary line—a survey of the comparatively short section in the vicinity of the known iron ore deposits might suffice for many years to come. Canada has an interest and we do not know what her attitude may be.

5. We would be grateful if you considered the matter and let us have your views as to the line of action you suggest we should take. The problem is difficult and its solution expensive.

6. Howse informs me that he is the only official of this Government who has visited the area and that it is *terra incognita* to Canadian officials.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. NEILL

1317.

PRO DO 35 1151 N601/16 X/J 9827

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Dominions au commissaire
aux Services publics et aux Approvisionnements*

*Assistant Under-Secretary of State for Dominions to Commissioner
for Public Utilities and Supply*

CONFIDENTIAL

London, March 14, 1946.

My Dear Neill,

We have read with great interest your letter to Tait of the 11th January about the difficulties which may arise at some time in the future owing to the lack of a clearly defined boundary line between Labrador and Quebec.

We quite understand the uneasiness that has been expressed on this account, and no doubt some arrangement will have to be come to with Canada sooner or later for the exact determination of the boundary by a joint Boundary Commission. But, as you say, this would be likely to be a difficult and expensive matter, even if the work of the Commission were to be confined to that part of the boundary which runs through the iron-ore area.