

*Northwest Territories Act*

parliament exercising authority over the Northwest Territories. I am sure it was before 1927.

**Mr. Winters:** What I am saying is that the present act covering the administration of the Northwest Territories was passed in 1927. I have not the date of the original legislation under which, up to that time, the territories had been governed. However, since this measure is only in the resolution stage, I shall be glad to give the hon. member the information when we have the bill before us.

**Mr. Green:** The resolution points out that there is to be an increase in the allowance for living expenses of members of the council, when the council is in session. Where does it meet, and who are the members? What living allowances do they now receive, and what is the amount of the proposed increase?

**Mr. Winters:** Under the provisions of the act the council must meet at least twice a year, and there is a further provision that at least one of those meetings shall be at some point to be designated in the Northwest Territories. The first meeting was held last December at Yellowknife; the second will commence on July 2 in Ottawa. It is intended to have one meeting each year in Ottawa and one meeting at some point to be designated in the Northwest Territories. We propose to rotate the place of meeting in the Northwest Territories, so that members of the council will have the opportunity of becoming as familiar as possible with various centres in the Northwest Territories.

The present level of expense allowances is not to exceed \$15 a day. While that seems to be generally adequate when the council meets in the Northwest Territories, it is considered that because the sittings are so short requiring people to leave their occupations for two or three days to come to Ottawa, where hotel expenses are high and where certain other costs are considerably higher than would be encountered in the Northwest Territories, the amount should be raised.

While the bill is not before the house, I think I can tell the hon. member that we contemplate an increase in the maximum of expense allowances to \$25 a day instead of the present \$15.

**Mr. Green:** At what points in the Northwest Territories, in addition to Yellowknife, will the commission meet?

**Mr. Winters:** The commission will decide that itself. I think it is reasonable to assume, however, that, in addition to meeting at Yellowknife, it will meet occasionally at Hay River, and perhaps at Norman Wells. It

[Mr. Black (Cumberland).]

might meet at Aklavik, as well as at Port Radium and Fort Smith. Those are the most likely places.

**Mr. Green:** What are the names of the members of the commission?

**Mr. Winters:** The commissioner of the Northwest Territories is Major General H. A. Young, who is also deputy minister of the Department of Resources and Development. The deputy commissioner is Colonel F. J. G. Cunningham, also employed in the Department of Resources and Development. I am not sure that I can recall the names of all the members of the council. One is Commander L. C. Audette, who is a member of the Canadian maritime commission. Then, there is Commissioner L. H. Nicholson, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The other names are: Major D. M. MacKay, director of Indian affairs, Department of Citizenship and Immigration; and Air Commodore W. I. Clements, R.C.A.F. Then the names of the three elected members of the council are Mr. Mervyn Arthur Hardie, Mr. James Brodie, and Mr. Frank Carmichael.

**Mr. Green:** They are all from the Northwest Territories?

**Mr. Winters:** Yes, they are all from the Northwest Territories, and were elected last year.

**Mr. Green:** I notice in the last part of the resolution there is provision for the establishment of a territorial court in the Northwest Territories, and for the appointment in certain cases of deputy judges. Furthermore there is provision for the appointment of police magistrates. What is the present procedure, and what does the change signify?

**Mr. Winters:** At present the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories is carried out by stipendiary magistrates and justices of the peace. This proposal would enable a judge now having jurisdiction in the Yukon Territory to extend his jurisdiction to include the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Green:** Does this mean that the judge from Whitehorse which, I believe, is the seat of justice in the Yukon, would have to fly over to Yellowknife or to some other point in the Northwest Territories to conduct trials?

**Mr. Winters:** That is basically right, yes. His seat of residence is now at Whitehorse in the Yukon, and his territory will now include the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Green:** Why is this done? We are just putting through a change in the redistribution act to give the Yukon and the Northwest Territories separate members. I should think it would be much wiser to have separate judges, one in the Yukon and one in the