

Changes in the position of the boundary will be made from time to time as more detailed mapping is completed. Furthermore, the position of the boundary is extremely difficult to locate at many points, as within a swamp where creeks draining opposite ends of the swamp drain into different watersheds. Many arbitrations between respective governments will be necessary before this international boundary can be fixed.

3. A large part of the exploration work of Labrador Mining and Exploration Company for the past two years has been done in the Ruth Lake-Burnt Lake-Denault Lake area. In this area more than a dozen iron ore deposits have been located. Though little or no trenching has been done on these deposits to delimit them some of them are known to have a possible length of three miles. With widths of from 100 to upwards of 200 feet it can be seen that the iron ore potentialities are enormous. Unfortunately the Labrador-Canada boundary meanders right through the middle of this area, and, as can be seen from Dr. Moss's report the establishment of a definite boundary line is going to present great difficulties, particularly at this present time when transportation in the area is so difficult and expensive. It may be assumed from Dr. Moss's statement that for certain parts of the boundary line a determination on the basis of the Award of the Privy Council will very likely be impossible as, where lakes and swamps may drain in both sections [directions?], it will be found impossible to determine the line marking the watershed. Furthermore the sinuosities of such a line will be infinite and straight lines will have to be used for the boundary delineation.

4. While I was at the C.I.M. Convention at Quebec recently I discussed the matter informally with Dr. T. L. Tanton of the Geological Survey of Canada. At this stage it was obviously impossible for either Dr. Tanton or me to have any definite ideas on the subject but we agreed that at the present time the only practical method of delineating the boundary appeared to be by means of a Commission having definite terms of reference and having power to establish a boundary line in such areas where topography renders it impossible of determination on the basis of a literal interpretation of the Privy Council Award.

5. If the delineation of the boundary is delayed until mining operations start in the area then I think we may safely assume the possibility of trouble and disputes between Newfoundland and Canada. It is my opinion that this problem should be brought to the immediate attention of the Commission of Government and I should recommend that the Commission of Government approach the Dominion Government at Ottawa on the matter, suggesting that a preliminary investigation of the problem be made as quickly as possible with a view to having that part of the boundary in the Northwest section of Labrador determined as soon as practicable on a basis to be mutually agreed between the two Governments.

2. I have submitted this minute to Commission with the observation that a boundary survey would be very expensive—just how expensive it is