

Now, it has been suggested by responsible mining groups in the north, (and in) The British Columbia-Yukon Chamber of Mines, for example, that your department should undertake to do magnetometer surveys up there as well.

In many parts of the Yukon now, I take it, this type of surveying is not done. Is it the intention of the department to have this type of survey?

Dr. HARRISON: No, I do not think so,—not at the regional scale. We would like to, in certain specialized instances, for specialized purposes.

Mr. NIELSEN: Have you ever considered it?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes, very much. The airborne magnetometer functions best in relatively level country. As you know, however, the Yukon is not characterized by very level areas, except in the east.

Mr. NIELSEN: However, you appreciate the fact that magnetometer surveys have been highly successful in the Yukon over the years. For instance, the Hudson's Bay nickel deposit is a good example of that.

Dr. HARRISON: This is a feature of airborne magnetometer surveys which I think you will find many of the private companies would rather we would not undertake, that is, the actual prospecting for mineral deposits—which is what the magnetometer work of the Hudson's Bay Mining Company was directed toward. Our airborne magnetometer work is primarily directed to assisting in the geological interpretation and mapping of the country. If, as happened in the case of the Marmora deposit, for example, it does disclose a deposit, directly, of useful minerals, we are certainly happy about it. But that is not the primary intention.

Mr. NIELSEN: I wonder if, because of these representations that have been made to me by responsible mineral organizations, and development organizations in the Yukon and British Columbia, whether your department or your branch would give consideration to the feasibility of implementing the magnetometer surveys in the Yukon at some future time.

Dr. HARRISON: I would be very happy to see that you get a written statement from Dr. Morley, the Chief of our Geophysics Division, and have his considered opinion of geophysical surveys in the Yukon and other such mountainous terrain.

Mr. NIELSEN: Just one other question, with regard to the recent survey that was made last year. The results of this survey which was conducted in northern British Columbia and southwest Yukon were released in Ottawa approximately seven to ten days ago. The result of that release in Ottawa was that five companies were on the spot within hours of the release of the report, and had staked out all of the ground with which that report was concerned. That ground was staked by five companies.

The residents in the area of northwestern British Columbia and southwest Yukon had no knowledge of the contents of the report until it was too late to get into the field and stake any of the ground for themselves.

There have been representations made to me by mining organizations in the Yukon, the Whitehorse Board of Trade, and the B.C.-Yukon Chamber of Mines, that these reports should be released in such a fashion as to enable residents in the area to obtain equal opportunity with the companies to get on the ground and to stake.

This would mean holding back the reports for release in Ottawa for the time it takes to mail the reports from here to the various mining recorders, and to have a basic time settled. Otherwise it results in an extremely unfair situation.

Do you think you could take that situation under advisement for the future?