

PARTIE 10/PART 10

LE LABRADOR¹LABRADOR¹

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King Papers C133990

*Le ministre des Mines et des Ressources au ministre des Pensions
et de la Santé nationale*

*Minister of Mines and Resources to Minister of Pensions
and National Health*

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ottawa, May 10, 1938

My dear Colleague,

I have your personal letter of March 25th² with which you enclosed a copy of a letter¹ relative to the possibility of granting a contract to Mr. Henri Belanger, surveyor of Quebec, to delimit the boundary between Canada and Labrador.

From the Report of the Committee of the Privy Council as issued in March, 1927, the demarcation of the boundary between Canada and Labrador is a matter that concerns the Dominion and the Newfoundland Administration. I have no information as to whether or not the Newfoundland authorities have made any representations to Canada in regard to having a survey made of the boundary line.

This survey would be a very large undertaking and would involve a great many points in addition to the carrying on of the actual survey work. The consent of the Newfoundland Administration would first be necessary and the latter would no doubt have representations to make in regard to the survey and in regard to the methods to be followed. The standard of accuracy to be adopted would also be a matter that would no doubt be decided under agreement between Newfoundland and Canada.

I might also mention that insofar as the Dominion is concerned, a Boundary Commission exists for handling boundary matters as between Canada and adjacent areas and for undertaking any surveys that are necessary. This Commission, which is one of the Services of this Department, would appear to be the proper organization to undertake such boundary surveys as the Dominion might be responsible for between Canada and Labrador.

¹ Le Labrador fut accordé à Terre-Neuve en vertu d'un jugement du Comité juridique du Conseil Privé à Londres en 1927. Par la suite et jusqu'en 1933, alors que la situation financière de Terre-Neuve ne cessa de se détériorer, il y eut des propositions périodiques d'achat du Labrador par le Canada. Le prix de vente le plus fréquemment mentionné était de \$100 millions. Bien que le Québec voulût acquérir le Labrador, aucune de ces propositions ne porta fruit.

² Non reproduite.

¹ Labrador was awarded to Newfoundland by an opinion of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London in 1927. Thereafter and until 1933, as Newfoundland's financial situation worsened there were periodic proposals that Newfoundland sell Labrador to Canada. The purchase price most frequently mentioned was \$100 million. Although Quebec wanted to acquire Labrador, none of these proposals bore fruit.

² Not printed.