

come under this vote, we provide transportation for the police up there and do other work in that connection. Then, the establishment of the wireless since that time has run us into considerable expenditure.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I understood the minister to say a few moments ago that he proposed to reduce the expenditure in that territory as far as possible.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, my suggestion was that we might reduce it, in other branches of the Interior department, but not in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. HOEY: Are the Eskimo people recognized as wards of the government? I remember a year or two ago we passed some legislation along that line.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That was really putting the Eskimo under the control of the Indian department, but we have not taken any steps in that direction, except the sending of a medical man up to Cumberland gulf.

Mr. HOEY: But they are not recognized as wards?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am afraid we have to say they are. Were it not so, we could not very well go in and try them and imprison or execute them for infractions of our laws, as we have been doing.

Item agreed to.

Yukon—Salaries and expenses connected with the administration of the Territory, including Surveys . . . . .	\$65,000 00
Grant to Local Council . . . . .	45,000 00
Grant for maintenance and construction of roads . . . . .	70,000 00

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): If I might be permitted, Mr. Chairman, before we take up this vote, in fairness to a family and at the request of the hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion), I promised a little while ago to make a statement, when the estimates were under consideration, with respect to young Crawford who perished in the Wrangel island expedition. There has been a good deal of misunderstanding about this unfortunate expedition and Canada's share in any responsibility in connection with it. We had nothing to do with the expedition. A letter which I shall read from Professor Crawford, the boy's father, will explain that his son was induced to join the expedition on the strength of statements made that the island was claimed by Great Britain; that the only other contender for it was the United States, and that Great Britain wished to secure Wrangel island as a base for air services that might later be established.

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: Who made this statement?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That will come out in the letter from Professor Crawford, which I shall read. It is as follows:

Ontario College of Education  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, May 8, 1925.

Hon. Mr. STEWART,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

We understand from the press that you are to give a statement in the House regarding Stefansson's Wrangel island expedition.

In justice to our son, Allan Rudyard Crawford, the twenty-year old commander of the expedition, we wish to bring to your attention the fact that he (and ourselves) knew nothing of the history of Wrangel island except what Mr. Stefansson had told him. Mr. Stefansson led him to believe that Great Britain had a legitimate claim to the island, and that the British government would back up his action in raising the British flag thereon. The nation having the next best claim, according to Mr. Stefansson, was the United States.

Our son was told nothing of Russia's claims, and it was not until he reached East cape on the voyage to Wrangel that he became aware that the Russians claimed the island. Could you make it plain in your statement that our son was unaware of Russia's claim?

Stefansson, who had no other British subject available to lead his expedition, appealed to our son's patriotism in such a way that the boy felt it his duty to go and raise the flag on Wrangel, and he died in the belief that he was dying for the empire.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is that the entire letter?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes. It was written, I presume, after the hon. member (Mr. Manion) had raised the question in the House and I had promised to make a statement. I replied to this letter as follows:

Dear Mr. CRAWFORD:

I was glad to receive your letter of the eighth instant and to learn that your son had no knowledge of the Russian claim to Wrangel island when he was persuaded in 1921 to undertake that most unfortunate venture. The probability is I will make a statement in the House regarding this matter in the near future, and in doing so will be glad to follow your suggestion and make this point clear.

Thanking you for bringing this matter to my attention,

I remains,  
Yours faithfully,

This is the statement I wish to make in this connection, Mr. Chairman:

The Canadian government steamer *Karluk*, carrying members of the Canadian Arctic expedition, was crushed in the ice off the coast of Siberia, during the winter of 1913-14. The nearest land was Wrangel island, some 90 miles to the south. Before the sinking of the ship the crew were able to land provisions on the ice which, during the succeeding months, were transported by dogs to Wrangel island. The occupation of that island was taken up in March, 1914, and continued until the following September, when the survivors were taken off by an American vessel the *King and Winge*. Shortly after leaving Wrangel they met the United States re-