

The Polar Workers' Reference Book is an elementary scientific text-book written, not to grip the interest of people who probably do not want to go North anyway, but for the already interested, not very scientific Polar worker; it is designed for a public, in fact, which exists in any size only in Russia.

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CHANGES IN GREENLAND ADMINISTRATION

[Summarised from *De Forenede Grønlandske Landsraads Forhandlinger*, 1943, 1945, Copenhagen, 1946; and *Betænkning afgivet den 12. Juni af Rigsdagens Grønlandsudvalg i Forening med en af de Grønlandske Landsraad valgt Delegation og Repræsentanter for Grønlands Styrelse*. Copenhagen, 1946.]

Late in 1939 four members of the two Greenland Land Councils (*Landsraad*) visited Copenhagen to discuss revisions in legislation with the Parliamentary Committee on Greenland and the Greenland Administration (*Grønlands Styrelse*). Owing to the war the various new plans had to be left in abeyance, but the last ship to arrive in Greenland from Denmark in 1940 brought an account of the discussions and an outline of the intended new legislation to the two Governors (*Landsfogeder*). This outline proved to be of the greatest use during the war years.

During the war Greenland came under one united administration under Governor Eske Brun in Godthaab, and the two Land Councils, which normally worked independently of each other, met together and discussed their problems as a whole. In 1943 Eske Brun, as chairman of one of these meetings, pointed out that the time was soon to come when Greenland would be able to take up relations with Denmark again and that the most important question that concerned the Land Councils would be the position of Greenland in the post-war world. They would soon have to make their wishes and hopes known.

In 1945, after Denmark had been liberated, the Land Councils met again and discussed proposals for legislative revision in some detail. The soundness of Danish policy during the last fifty years was not called in question, but several of the problems of 1939 had been accentuated by the war. As a Danish journalist wrote: "From 1940 to 1945 the Greenlanders had governed themselves to all intents and purposes." The Greenlander of 1945 was more confident than ever before of his ability to help in managing Greenland, but also more aware of his shortcomings and what would have to be done before he would be fully capable of looking after his own affairs. Thus many of the proposals made were based on experience gained during this time. Significantly, one of the first and most important points made in the discussion was that the administration of Greenland during the war years had been most successful.

Some sixty or seventy proposals were discussed thoroughly, and in the autumn of 1945 a Delegation of six members from the two Land Councils left for Denmark. Here they met the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Greenland, consisting of eight members, and representatives of *Grønlands Styrelse*. Discussions took place between January and June 1946 and the final results of the negotiations were published on 12 June 1946. In making their

recommendations, which had unanimous approval, the Parliamentary Committee, the Delegation, and *Grønlands Styrelse* had to bear in mind several main problems. The population had increased and the present system of economy, which relied to a large extent on cryolite and cod fishing and which had had little competition during the war, would have to be revised. Facilities for trade would have to be expanded, harbours enlarged and machinery replaced. Furthermore, alternative sources of revenue would have to be found. The education system would have to be revised, and the Greenlanders should have better opportunities for training so as to equip them for senior posts in their country.

It was agreed that the system by which North Greenland and South Greenland are each administered by its own Governor, should be continued, and there should likewise still be two Land Councils, which, however, should in future have joint sessions every second year. The position would then be reviewed again in five years' time. One of the main proposals made by the Land Councils had been that the Director of the administration should be resident in Greenland and that the councils should be united. The fact that this first recommendation did not fully meet this wish caused some criticism both in Denmark and Greenland.

There are twelve members of the Land Council in North Greenland and eleven in South Greenland. Up to the present they have been elected by members of the local Communal Councils (*Kommuneraad*) and Syssel¹ Councils (*Sysselraad*). It is now proposed that in future the elections should be direct by all eligible to vote for the communal councils.

An important recommendation deals with the question of the trade monopoly and the ban on free entry into the country. Here the Greenlanders were unanimously in favour of continuing both the monopoly and the ban on the grounds that the average Greenlander is not yet sufficiently mature and independent to enable this basic principle in the government of the country to be abandoned. However, the Land Councils were left to decide on a few minor amendments whereby certain Danes might acquire domiciliary rights in Greenland.

It was agreed that much more would have to be done to promote the fisheries, and in all about 1,000,000 Kr. has already been allocated to supply motor-boats by 1950. New and better houses for storage of fish should be built, whilst biological investigations should be extended. Likewise more help should be given to the sheep breeders in South Greenland.

In regard to trade, it was recommended that the transit harbours established during the war should not be maintained more than is necessary for economic and practical reasons. The Greenlanders had here stressed the importance of direct communication between the greatest possible number of settlements and Denmark.

It was recommended that the health services should be expanded and modernised; that more doctors should be appointed, bringing the number up

¹ An administrative district larger than a commune.

to sixteen. Two more hospitals should be built, one in Scoresbysund and the other at Angmagssalik, and most of the existing hospitals should be enlarged and given better equipment. Furthermore, it was proposed that two "X-Ray boats" should be built to travel round the settlements in order to combat tuberculosis. In this connection more work should be done to raise the standard of hygiene and to improve the general condition of housing in Greenland.

Finally the report dealt with various cultural problems. Efforts to extend the knowledge of Danish should be intensified, some more Danish teachers should be appointed and more Greenlanders should be given the opportunity of further education in Denmark. It was proposed to establish some new boarding schools where the classes would be held in Danish only. There is a widespread demand for further Danish education in Greenland and it was felt that this would lead to closer association between Danes and Greenlanders. An inspector of educational and cultural affairs should be appointed who would share in the supervision of the education system and would help with the introduction of more cinemas, films and extended wireless facilities.

The report also dealt with many other problems which should have far-reaching effects in Greenland. It recommended increased wages both for Greenlanders and Danes in many different appointments. *Grønlands Styrelse* has already agreed to increase the range of goods available in the shops. Greenlanders will in future be permitted to work in the cryolite mine at Ivigtut as "B Class workers". The coal mining at Kutdligssat is to be continued, but at present the marble quarry at Marmorilik will not be worked.

The report was severely criticised in some quarters in Denmark and it was discussed with some heat in the Greenland Society. The recommendations were thought to be half measures and it was asserted that in many cases no action would be taken until yet another commission had investigated the problem in Greenland itself, thus causing still further delay. All this criticism came out at a time when interest was being taken in the reports of a party of journalists who visited Greenland in September 1946 and who on the whole brought back unsatisfactory reports. But work on the development of Greenland goes on, and several of the recommendations are already being carried out in practice. The Greenlanders are being given more say in their own affairs and the time cannot be far off when they will be able to send their own representatives to the Danish *Rigsdag*.

J. G. ELBO

NEW CANADIAN METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS IN THE ARCTIC

[The following statement was made in the Canadian House of Commons on 3 March 1947 by the Right Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction and Supply.]

To enable Canada to provide more accurate and longer-range weather forecasting to meet her domestic and international obligations the Government proposes to establish nine weather stations in the Arctic during the next three years. The most northerly of these will be located in the vicinity of Eureka Sound on the north-western side of Ellesmere Island approximately 670 miles from the North Pole. The