

# **Exhibit P-82**

Ottawa, December 15, 1947.

MEMORANDUM:

- The Deputy Minister -  

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It is my understanding that Dr. M. W. Morton of the National Defence Research Board discussed with you a few days ago the desirability of having certain branches of the department linked up more closely with the National Research Council.

Dr. Morton, who interviewed me on Friday last, was anxious to learn from me the extent to which officials of the Indian Service might be interested in research, particularly sociological and psychological studies such as those undertaken at the Caughnawaga Reserve by Professor La Violette and Professor Hall of McGill University.

Dr. Morton was deeply interested in the limited amount of research work we had undertaken in this branch in recent years. I supplied him with a report on the medical survey undertaken in Northern Manitoba in 1942 and a copy of Professor McIlwraith's submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I informed him that a group of scientists under the direction of Dr. R. P. Vivian were at present engaged in an intensive study of conditions existing on Indian reserves in Northern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec. He had not heard of this study and appeared interested in the scope of the investigation.

It is to me gratifying and encouraging to learn of the steadily awakening interest on the part of scientists in what we usually refer to as the

.. Indian problem.

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Indian problem. There are a number of projects that naturally come to one's mind when the subject of research comes up for discussion. The scientists I have interviewed appear to be, for the time being at least, interested in psychological and sociological studies with the object of securing information relating to the temperament of the Indian, his innate inertia, his nomadic instincts, lack of frugality, etc. It is perhaps well that we should have a thorough understanding of these before we undertake a program aimed at the legitimate exploitation of the resources to which the Indian claims ownership. But even at this stage, research work in forestry, fish culture, educational effort and the dietary habits of the Indian, and his available food supply, might very profitably be undertaken.

I have myself had in mind for three or four years the thought of discussing with the officials of the National Research Council the organization of a research project or projects on our fur conservation areas. It is estimated that we have at this date a rat population at the Summerberry area in Manitoba of approximately 300,000, with an annual catch of 235,000 compared with a catch of 2,000 a year at the time this conservation program was instituted. Our officials express the opinion that the optimum rat population at Summerberry has been reached, which population of course is limited by the available food supply. There is evidence which indicates that encouraging results have been obtained in the production of plants by the treatment of soil with vitamin solutions. It is just possible of course that our fur conservation areas are altogether too vast to permit of such treatment with any hope of success. In the case of muskrats, however, it should be stated that a limited food supply is likely to result in an impoverished rat, subject to intestinal infection, with a resultant decline in the rat population.

Dr. Morton was anxious that I should summarize my views on this question and pass them on to you at an early date. I am not sure that this memorandum will prove at all helpful. I do not feel that I have had the training, nor do I possess the qualifications to make a worthwhile contribution to this question.

Director.