

Government as far as possible. The second memorandum was in the following terms:—

“The Norwegian Government have not sufficient knowledge of the basis upon which are founded the British claims to each one of the territories which the last Imperial Conference asserted to be British. The Norwegian Government, however, are prepared to express their willingness to refrain from occupying any land within these territories.”

454. Sir R. Lindsay then informed the Minister that His Majesty's Government withdrew all claim to Bouvet Island and would raise no objection to its annexation by the Norwegian Government. No more formal notification was ever made to the Norwegian Government of the renunciation of the British claim to Bouvet Island, but the decision of His Majesty's Government was made public in the form of answers to questions in Parliament on November 19th 1928. The substance of the two memoranda read by the Norwegian Minister at his last interview was not made public either in this country or in Norway.

W 11009/532/50  
of 1928.

Bjarne  
Aagaard:  
*Fangst og  
Forskning i  
Sydishavet*,  
Oslo, 1930,  
Bd. 2,  
pp. 590-93.

N 416/136/30  
of 1930.

*British and  
Foreign State  
Papers, 1930*,  
Part 1, Vol. 132,  
p. 863.

N 1239/136/30  
of 1930.

*Norsk Lovtidende*  
No. 13, 1935,  
p. 357.

Bjarne  
Aagaard:  
*Norges Handels  
og Sjøfarts-  
tidende* (Oslo,  
March-April  
1928).

A. R. Hinks:  
*Geog. Journ.*,  
Vol. 72, 1928,  
pp. 537-46.

455. Since 1927 Norway has strengthened her claim to Bouvet Island by a number of acts of sovereignty. A Royal Decree of August 10th 1928, afterwards confirmed by law, gave total protection to the fur seal colony. Unsuccessful efforts were made to erect a meteorological station on the island when numerous landings were effected in 1927, 1928 and 1929 (paragraph 71). In November 1929 air photographs of the whole island were taken and the coast was surveyed. On January 14th 1930 a Bill was introduced into the Norwegian Parliament proposing that Norwegian municipal law, criminal law and laws on judicial procedure should be applied to the new Norwegian possessions of Bouvet and Jan Mayen (Arctic) Islands. This law was adopted unanimously on February 14th and received Royal Assent on February 27th, Jan Mayen Island becoming under the terms of the law an integral part of the Kingdom of Norway and therefore inalienable, while Bouvet Island was to be considered as a Norwegian Dependency only and therefore not untransferable. A Royal Resolution of March 6th 1935 prohibited all sealing on Bouvet Island.

456. It may be noted that it was contended by the Norwegians in 1928 that there was no clear proof that Liverpool Island was identical with Bouvet Island. A re-examination of all the available evidence of Norris' visit showed no reasonable ground for doubting the identity of Liverpool and Bouvet Islands, but at that time there was still insufficient evidence to disprove the existence of Thompson Island, to which His Majesty's Government had not surrendered their title. Further extended searches for Thompson Island have been made by the *Norvegia* (Dec. 16th-21st 1928, Oct. 14th-21st 1929 and Nov. 11th-14th 1929), and by *Discovery II* (Oct. 16th-19th 1930). *Discovery II* made a running survey of Bouvet Island on this occasion. She also passed close to Bouvet on July 13th, Sept. 26th, Oct. 28th and Dec. 6th 1938, and made a landing on Jan. 17th 1939. It must now be concluded definitely that Thompson Island does not exist and that Bouvet Island is the only land in this part of the South Atlantic.

W 2431/23/50  
of 1934.

457. On the occasion of the visit of H.M.S. *Milford* to Bouvet Island in February 1934 the ship's mail was franked with Norwegian stamps overprinted "Bouvet Øya" in black. Authority for this was given by the Norwegian Consul at Capetown, but apparently the postal authorities in Norway were not consulted.

458. The history and geography of Bouvet Island are discussed exhaustively, but with Norwegian bias, by Bjarne Aagaard in *Fangst og Forskning i Sydishavet* (Oslo, 1930, Bd. 2).

Island alone, and that the two Governments were really approaching the discussion of the whole Antarctic question. Of this there were two aspects. The first was political and territorial. Geographical considerations and British efforts in exploration entitled Great Britain and the Dominions to a special position, and it was the preference of the British Government, and even more of the Dominions concerned, that the Empire should have no neighbours at all in the Antarctic or in its adjacent islands. The second aspect was commercial. The only governmental control over the whaling industry in southern waters was British; this control had always been exercised in an impartial manner between British and Norwegian interests; and, if whales were not to be exterminated, it was indispensable that control should continue. His Majesty's Government had no desire to exclude Norwegians from the industry, and were anxious to come to an agreement to secure further and even more efficient protection for the whaling industry. To sum up, there were three elements to be considered:—

(a) The desire of His Majesty's Government that no further annexations should be made by other Powers in the Antarctic.

(b) Their desire to reach a satisfactory agreement with Norway over the whaling industry.

(c) The possession of Bouvet Island, a question which might be regarded as separate from the wider issues.

Without intending to drive a bargain, he was authorised to say that His Majesty's Government would have no hesitation in recognising Norwegian sovereignty over Bouvet Island if they could be met substantially on the other questions.

452. On October 16th 1928, Lord Cushendun, then Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, received the Norwegian Minister, who said that he was sure that his Government could give full satisfaction over the question of whaling. They fully appreciated also the special interest of Great Britain in the territorial question. Nevertheless they felt that the issues involved should be kept quite distinct from that of Bouvet Island, with which they had no connection whatever. Lord Cushendun replied that His Majesty's Government did not wish to establish any direct connection between the two questions, but felt that, in view of their readiness to relinquish all claims to Bouvet Island, they were entitled to expect, more or less simultaneously, some such assurance as would set their mind at rest on the other matter. The Minister then changed his tactics and developed a new argument. If, he said, there was to be some *quid pro quo* for the renunciation of the British claim to Bouvet Island, such a one existed at the other end of the globe. There were certain regions in the Arctic (*viz.*, the Otto Sverdrup Islands) which were indisputably Norwegian by priority of discovery—discovery much more recent than the British discovery of Bouvet Island—where the Canadian Government were exercising some sort of administrative authority. Lord Cushendun replied that this was a matter quite outside the scope of the present discussion,\* and that he was confident that the Norwegian Government, on reconsideration, would give the required assurances in regard to the areas mentioned in the Imperial Conference proceedings. The Minister undertook to consult further with his Government and promised to resume the discussion at a later date.

453. On November 15th 1928, the Norwegian Minister called at the Foreign Office and read two memoranda. The first was to the effect that the Norwegian Government would always be glad to discuss with His Majesty's Government questions of common interest such as the protection of whales and seals in Polar regions, and in this matter they sincerely desired to meet the wishes of His Majesty's

\* It was, nevertheless, impossible for him to maintain that effective occupation was necessary to perfect title in the case of the Canadian islands and unnecessary in the case of Bouvet Island.

W 10106/532/50  
of 1928.

W 10837/532/50  
of 1928.

W 986/532/50  
of 1928.

447. The British claim to the island was admittedly not a very strong one. Apart from the inchoate title derived from Norris's discovery and claim, it could not be claimed that periodical visits had been made to the island by British expeditions, although an attempt was made in 1926 by the *Discovery*, which sighted the island but was unable to approach. On the other hand, there had been an undoubted exercise of sovereignty in 1927, some months before Bouvet Island was occupied by the Norwegian expedition, when the whaling licence in respect of Bouvet and Thompson Islands had been granted by the Colonial Office to Messrs. Rasmussen and Co., of Norway.

W 1325/532/50  
of 1928.

448. From the practical point of view it was generally recognised that possession of the island is worth nothing to Great Britain apart from its possible value as a whaling centre. On the other hand, account had to be taken of the effect which the British attitude towards the Norwegian claim might have on British claims elsewhere in the Antarctic, some of which might be open to challenge. Whilst the possibility of an eventual compromise was not excluded, it was therefore decided that in the first instance it would be a mistake to do anything which might encourage the Norwegian Government to make claims elsewhere or to dispute British claims in other areas. It was accordingly decided that the best course would be to send a reply to the Norwegian Government simply informing them of the existence of a prior British claim and reserving British rights. A note in these terms was addressed to the Norwegian Minister on February 15th 1928.

W 1157/532/50  
of 1928.

449. At the same time it was considered desirable to give the Norwegian Government timely warning of British claims in the Antarctic, in order, if possible, to forestall any further annexations by the *Norvegia* expedition. His Majesty's Minister at Oslo was accordingly instructed to state that His Majesty's Government had learnt from the Norwegian Minister in London that the master of the *Norvegia* was authorised to hoist the Norwegian flag on any lands which belonged to no other Power, and that, consequently, it seemed desirable to remind the Norwegian Government of the discussions at the Imperial Conference of 1926 in connexion with those regions mentioned in the published *Summary of Proceedings* (paragraph 93). Sir Francis Lindley was to add that the motive of his communication was merely the desire to avoid the risk of complications arising from any acts which might be performed by the expedition in ignorance of the existence of a British title to the areas referred to in the Imperial Conference report.

W 3978/532/50  
of 1928.

450. On April 23rd 1928, the Norwegian Minister replied at great length to the British note of February 15th 1928. His principal points were:—

(a) Bouvet was not included in the areas specified in the Imperial Conference *Summary of Proceedings*.

(b) The Norwegian Government were not aware of a British title to Bouvet, and no reference to such a title could be found in any ordinary reference book.

(c) It was doubtful whether the island discovered by Captain Norris was in effect Bouvet. In any event, the British title could not be regarded as valid as nothing was done for over 100 years to follow up the discovery or to make a public claim to the island.

(d) The Norwegian Government on these grounds maintained their claim.

W 9978/532/50  
of 1928.

451. It was decided to send no written reply to the Norwegian Minister, but to try to reach a compromise on certain lines to be discussed in conversations. On October 4th 1928 Sir R. Lindsay received the Norwegian Minister and said that while His Majesty's Government were anxious to approach the question in a reasonable spirit, wider issues were involved than that relating to Bouvet

for the administration of the island under the Norwegian Department of Commerce. A Royal Resolution of March 6th 1935 prohibited all sealing on the island.

*Norsk Lovtidende*  
No. 13, 1935,  
p. 357.

#### BOUVET ISLAND

442. Bouvet Island (lat. 54° 26' S., long. 3° 24' E.) was discovered on January 1st 1739 by Jean-Baptiste-Charles Bouvet de Lozier, with the French exploring ships *Aigle* and *Marie*, but its position was not accurately determined. For this reason it was searched for unsuccessfully by several later explorers, and considerable doubt was thus cast upon its existence. Further uncertainty was caused by the fact that, between the dates of these searches, the island was several times reported by the captains of sealing vessels, whose accounts of its position and appearance showed marked discrepancies.

443. Bouvet did not circumnavigate the island which he discovered, and remained uncertain whether it was in fact an island or part of a southern continent. Owing to fog and bad weather he was unable to land, although he remained for ten days in the neighbourhood.

444. The following notes are restricted to the expeditions which sighted the island, but this treatment should not obscure the fact that there were also many unsuccessful searches. In 1808 James Lindsay of the British snow *Swan*, in company with Thomas Hopper of the *Otter*, rediscovered the island but was unable to land. In 1822 Benjamin Morrell, of the American sealer *Wasp*, probably circumnavigated it and made the first landing on a small rocky beach, where seals were taken. In 1825 George Norris, with the British sealers *Sprightly* and *Lively*, sighted two islands which he named Liverpool Island and Thompson Island. On December 16th he landed on Liverpool Island and took formal possession of it for the British Crown (see p. 158). The crews of two boats sent for seals were weatherbound on shore from December 18th to 24th. Norris did not land on Thompson Island "15 leagues" to the north-east. In about 1878 John Williams, of the American schooner *Golden West*, is said to have landed on one or the other island. Rastus Church, of the American sealer *Delia Church*, sighted one in 1822, and Joseph Fuller, of the American sealer *Francis Allen*, is said to have seen both islands in 1893.

445. In 1898 the German deep-sea expedition in the *Valdivia* searched for Thompson and Liverpool Islands in the positions assigned to them without success. Lindsay's island likewise could not be found, but a single island was discovered in another new position and named Bouvet Island. Considering it probable that Bouvet Island was identical with Liverpool Island, the *Valdivia* made a prolonged but unsuccessful search for the other island in the position assigned to it by Norris. In 1916 the United States magnetic survey ship *Carnegie* sighted an island which they referred to as Lindsay Island, whose position agreed very closely with the *Valdivia*'s Bouvet Island, but did not land and did not see Thompson Island. In 1926 the German ship *Meteor* visited Bouvet Island, but was unable to land. She searched unsuccessfully for Thompson Island (see paragraph 456). Finally, on December 1st 1927, Captain Harold Horntvedt, of the *Norvegia*, landed on Bouvet, and under instructions from the Norwegian Government, took formal possession for that country (see p. 161). The *Norvegia* remained at the island for a month, whaling, sealing and making scientific observations, and then sailed for South Georgia.

W 548/532/50  
of 1928.

446. Meanwhile the Colonial Office had authorised Reuter's Agency to announce on January 17th 1928 that His Majesty's Government had granted a sole concession to a Norwegian firm, Messrs. Johan Rasmussen and Co., to occupy exclusively Bouvet and Thompson Islands for a period of ten years, and to exploit these islands. Following the receipt of this Reuter telegram in Oslo, the Norwegian Minister in London was instructed to inform His Majesty's Government, in a note of January 19th, that the *Norvegia* had taken possession of Bouvet Island on December 1st 1927. Norway's sovereignty was officially proclaimed by a Royal Decree of January 23rd 1928.

*Geog. Journ.*,  
Vol. 72, 1928,  
p. 537.  
W 834/51/50  
of 1929.  
W 548/532/50  
of 1928.  
*Collection of  
Laws, etc.,  
1926-30,  
relating to the  
Commerce and  
Shipping of  
Norway.*  
Oslo, 1932,  
p. 343.

to did not proclaim our pretensions to zones which could be considered *res nullius*, but it defined a boundary line in specifically Chilean territories and seas whose frontiers were until now undetermined " . . . " The Chilean Government fails to discern the foundations upon which the Japanese Government bases its reservation of rights to a triangle which, starting from seas and lands belonging to the Republic of Chile, ends with its vertex at the South Pole ; is situated within the American Antarctic ; includes regions owned by Chile since ancient times, and borders to the east and west on zones occupied by Argentina and the United States."

## CHAPTER XIV

### ISLANDS IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

436. Included within the Antarctic regions are several groups of islands, lying for the most part hundreds of miles off-shore near the Antarctic Convergence. The island groups connecting South America and Graham Land (Shag Rocks, South Georgia, South Sandwich, South Orkney and South Shetland Islands) lie entirely within the area of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and have already been discussed in Chapter IX. Certain other more isolated islands require separate treatment, notably Peter I Island in the Bellingshausen Sea ; Bouvet Island in the South Atlantic Ocean ; Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen and Heard Islands in the South Indian Ocean ; and Macquarie Island in the southern part of the Tasman Sea :—

#### PETER I ISLAND

437. Peter I Island (lat. 68° 50' S., long. 90° 30' W.) was discovered by the Russian expedition under Admiral Thaddeus von Bellingshausen on January 22nd 1821. Bellingshausen was within sight of the north coast for two days, but was unable to approach nearer than about 15 miles owing to heavy pack ice. In 1898 the *Belgica*, of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition under A. de Gerlache, was beset in the pack ice and drifted about 90 miles south of the island. Peter I Island was not sighted again until January 1910, when Dr. Charcot, in the *Pourquoi Pas ?*, passed about 2½ miles northward of it in foggy weather. In January 1927 the Norwegian whale catcher *Odd I* circumnavigated the island, but was unable to land owing to heavy swell.

438. On February 1st 1929 the Norwegian research vessel, *Norvegia*, reached the island. The following day a landing was made, the Norwegian flag was hoisted, and, with the prior authorisation of the Norwegian Foreign Office, Captain Nils Larsen formally took possession for King Haakon VII (*see p. 161*). The *Norvegia* remained there until February 8th, making surveys and scientific investigations, and a small depot house was erected.

439. In view of the fact that there was no good ground on which a British claim to the island could be put forward, although the island lay within the limits of the extension to the Falkland Islands Dependencies recommended by the Imperial Conference of 1926 (paragraph 92), His Majesty's Government decided to raise no objection to the Norwegian annexation.

440. Peter I Island was officially submitted to Norwegian sovereignty by a Royal Proclamation of May 1st 1931, and this sovereignty was recognised by His Majesty's Government on August 6th 1931.

441. On March 24th 1933 the Norwegian law of 1930 annexing Bouvet Island (paragraph 455) was extended to Peter I Island, which was thus made a Dependency, subject to Norwegian civil and criminal law and legislation on judicial procedure. This action was followed on July 13th 1933 by a Royal Resolution making provision

W 1770/98/50  
of 1929.

*British and  
Foreign State  
Papers, 1931,*  
Vol. 134,  
p. 1010.  
W 5440/29/50  
of 1931.  
W 8423/29/50  
of 1931.

*British and  
Foreign State  
Papers, 1933,*  
Vol. 136,  
pp. 27-28.

432. On February 24th, 25th and 27th 1940 Admiral Byrd made three major flights southwards from the edge of the pack-ice between longs. 110° W. and 90° W. During each of these flights the continental coastline was sighted and roughly located. It is important to note that knowledge of the Walgreen Coast of James W. Ellsworth Land is based solely on the observations made during these three flights. In May 1941 Admiral Byrd was reported to have stated that 1,100 miles of new coastline had been charted by his expeditions and that the United States then had claims to more than 1,000,000 square miles of territory. No information has been published about any specific formal claims made by members of the United States Antarctic Service. It seems certain, however, that claims within the Pacific sector were, in fact made (see pp. 166-167).

*New York  
Herald Tribune,  
May 6th 1941.*

433. A further indication of the area to which the United States Government may be expected to advance a claim is given in a recent official chart (U.S. Army Aeronautical Planning Chart, 3 sheets, 1:5,000,000. Compiled for the U.S. Army Air Forces by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C., July 1943. "Advance Proof—Subject to correction. Restricted. War and Navy Department agencies only. Not for sale or distribution"). On this chart the whole of the sector between the "Ross Dependency (New Zealand Claim)" and the "Falkland Islands Dependencies (British Claim)" is marked "Byrd-Ellsworth Sector (United States Claim)." The northern limit of this United States claim is clearly shown as lat. 70° S., but Peter I Island is shown as Norwegian. The sector between long. 20° W. and 45° E. is marked "Norwegian Sector (Norwegian Claim)", without any northern limit. The "Australian Antarctic Territory (Australian Claim)," "Adélie Land (French Claim)", and the "Ross Dependency (New Zealand Claim)" are all delimited as on British official maps.

#### NORWEGIAN CLAIMS

434. Basing their rights on Amundsen's journey to the South Pole in 1911, the Norwegian Government claimed, in 1927, the sector between longs. 120° W. and 175° W., south of lat. 85° S. (paragraph 309). The eastern part of this area lies within the Pacific sector. His Majesty's Government subsequently informed the Norwegian Government that they were unable to see on what grounds this Norwegian claim could be substantiated (paragraph 310). In 1930 the Norwegian Government addressed a note to the State Department protesting against any claim which the United States might make to the area around the South Pole, and reserving their rights (paragraph 313).

#### CHILEAN CLAIMS

435. Under a Decree of November 6th 1940 (paragraph 260) the Chilean Government laid claim to a portion of this sector, extending from the western boundary of the Falkland Islands Dependencies to long 90° W. It is understood that this meridian was chosen as the western limit of Chilean claims on the ground that it passes slightly to the west of the Chilean island of Juan Fernandez. No Chilean explorer has ever visited the region.

#### JAPANESE INTERESTS

435a. On November 13th 1940, the Japanese Legation in Santiago presented the Chilean Government with a "verbal note" referring to the Chilean Decree of November 6th 1940 (paragraph 260). The note stated that "Japan regards herself as one of the countries holding interests and rights in the said zone, for which reason she reserves her right to assert her point of view in this particular". The Chilean reply, dated November 29th 1940, stated firmly that the Chilean Government "regrets that it cannot accept the reservation of rights" which the Japanese Government put forward to territories "within the American Hemisphere" . . . . "It is necessary to make it perfectly clear that the Decree alluded

*O. Pinochet de  
la Barra: La  
Antártida Chi-  
lena, Santiago,  
1944, pp. 176-  
177.*

## UNITED STATES INTERESTS

428. The United States Government have not yet asserted any claim based on the discoveries and formal acts of United States citizens in this sector. They have, however, provided repeated indications of their interest, and American maps of the Antarctic now commonly mark this area as "United States claim."

W 1561/98/50  
of 1929.

429. In February 1929 the *New York Times* printed a message from Commander Byrd stating that his expedition had claimed for the United States a large area of newly-discovered territory between the Ross Sea and Graham Land (paragraph 317). It was learned later that Dr. L. Gould had deposited a formal claim to Marie Byrd Land at Supporting Party Mountain on December 20th 1929 (see p. 161). On July 2nd 1930 the State Department issued a statement to the effect that Marie Byrd Land, claimed for the United States, had been found to possess an independent coastal access east of long. 150° W.\* (paragraph 322). On his return to the United States after his second expedition, 1933-35, Admiral Byrd stated that he had discovered and taken possession for the United States of a "land area as large as the combined Atlantic seaboard states from Maine to Georgia," and in interviews with the press he foreshadowed a claim by the United States Government to the land east of long. 150° W.

W 7147/1/50  
of 1930.

W 4564/697/50  
of 1935.  
W 3737/270/50  
of 1936.

W 452/270/50  
of 1936.

430. Before his trans-Antarctic flight in 1935, Mr. Ellsworth told the *New York Times* that, when he reached unclaimed territory, he would, "with the permission of the State Department, drop the Stars and Stripes and, so far as this act will suffice, claim the area we discover up to the 120th meridian† for the United States of America." Subsequent reports that Mr. Ellsworth had, in fact, carried out his intention (see p. 165) while flying over *terra nullius* on November 23rd 1935 led His Majesty's Government to review the situation and to consider whether Mr. Ellsworth's action constituted a sufficient basis (subject to the fulfilment of other conditions) for a United States claim to the sector between longs. 80° W. and 150° W. The view was taken in the Foreign Office that Mr. Ellsworth's sighting of new land in *terra nullius* was sufficient in itself to give an inchoate title, and that (irrespective of flag dropping or planting) the United States Government could assert a claim to the whole Pacific sector based on discovery and on the "sector principle." The discoveries of United States explorers and their formal claims, whether or not previously authorised by the Department of State, gave for a limited period an inchoate right to the United States Government to complete the acquisition of the sector by occupation; that is to say by setting up the necessary administration of the occupied territory (paragraph 505). In view of the absence of any statement from the United States Government, and the past attitude of the Department of State on the subject of Antarctic claims, it was decided not to raise the matter of Mr. Ellsworth's claim with the Department at that time.

W 1401/270/50  
of 1936.

W 3284/270/50  
of 1936.

431. The United States Government could not legally put forward a claim to final and definite sovereignty over the territory until they had first ratified the formal acts of occupation already made, and had given further demonstration of effective occupation. The peculiar difficulties of approach to the land of the Pacific sector would at present seem to preclude anything other than periodical visits. The inchoate title acquired by discovery will eventually lapse if it is not followed up by such visits, and it is clear that the United States Antarctic Service of 1939-41 was organised primarily for this purpose. On July 17th 1939 an official at the State Department drew the attention of a member of the staff of the British Embassy to the existence of these inchoate rights possessed by the United States Government (paragraph 339).

W 11098/431/50  
of 1939.

\* The eastern boundary of the Ross Dependency.

† The eastern boundary of Marie Byrd Land.

to the Ross Sea, making four landings, at which positions were astronomically determined, during the crossing (paragraph 168 and Appendix II, p. 165). The discoverers have defined Marie Byrd Land as the sector between longs. 150° W. and 120° W., and James W. Ellsworth Land as the sector between longs. 120° W. and 80° W.

424. It may be noted that the present map of the coastline of this sector is based entirely upon discoveries from aircraft under conditions which precluded the accurate determination of positions. During his flight of February 1st 1930 (paragraph 166), Sir Hubert Wilkins saw no indication of land from approximately lat. 73° S., long. 101° W. The only other flight made in this longitude, from the U.S.S. *Bear* on February 25th 1940, placed the coast about 50 miles north of the most southerly point reached by Wilkins. On this occasion the Americans reported that they had seen "snow-covered mountain ranges averaging about 4,000 ft. in height." Such conflicting evidence, which is by no means unusual in the Antarctic, suggests that none of this coast can yet be considered as anything more than very roughly located. The positions of a number of mountains far inland in Marie Byrd Land have, however, been astronomically determined.

#### BRITISH INTERESTS

425. The Imperial Conference of 1926 (paragraph 92) recommended, in effect, that the Ross Dependency should be extended eastwards and the Falkland Islands Dependencies westwards, in such a manner as would ultimately include the whole of the Pacific sector under British sovereignty. It was decided then that the final division of the sector by a line of partition between the two spheres of influence should be deferred until further economic information on whaling conditions in this region became available.

426. It has not been possible to follow up this recommendation, since no British expedition has yet sighted land within the sector except in the area immediately around the South Pole. In 1928-29 and again in 1929-30 Sir Hubert Wilkins attempted to fly across the Pacific sector from Graham Land to the Ross Sea (paragraph 166). In 1928 he was authorised by the Governor of the Falkland Islands to take formal possession of any new territory which he might discover, and in 1929 he had with him a Royal Commission for this purpose (paragraph 102). Unfortunately, only one important flight was undertaken within the limits of the Pacific sector, on February 1st 1930. On this occasion Sir Hubert reached approximately lat. 73° S. in long. 101° W., but no land was sighted. At his southernmost point he dropped the British flag suspended to a parachute, with a document taking possession of the area in the name of His Majesty the King (see p. 163). The expedition did not, in fact, succeed in discovering new territory outside the limits of the Falkland Islands Dependencies, and this claim was dropped on the pack-ice, far from land.

427. On August 6th 1931 Norwegian sovereignty over Peter I Island was recognised by His Majesty's Government (paragraph 440). In view of the possible necessity for recognition of the "sector principle" as applied to this Norwegian claim, there could no longer be any question of enlarging the Falkland Islands Dependencies by moving the boundary further west. Moreover, if any inchoate rights were acquired by His Majesty's Government as a result of Sir Hubert Wilkins' flight of February 1st 1930 (and this is highly doubtful), these should probably be regarded as having lapsed as no further action has been taken to follow them up. In view of the subsequent acquisition of much stronger inchoate rights by the United States, any new British claims to territory within the Pacific Sector at the present time would certainly be resented in the United States. If, however, the United States Government takes no further action within a reasonable time (say five years after the end of the war), then other governments may again feel free to attempt to acquire inchoate rights in the Pacific sector.

Lincoln  
Ellsworth :  
*Geog. Journal*,  
Vol. 89, No. 3,  
1937,  
pp. 193-213.

U.S. Hydro-  
graphic Office  
Chart, No. 2562,  
March 1943.

*Polar Record*,  
No. 22, 1941,  
p. 430.

Secret E 130  
(Revise) of 1926

W 336/98/50 ;  
W 7879/98/50  
of 1929.

Hubert Wilkins:  
*Geog. Review*,  
Vol. 20, No. 3,  
1930,  
pp. 382-84.



## GERMAN CLAIMS

420. An important feature of the German endeavour to become independent of foreign countries as regards the supply of fats and oils was the commencement, in 1936-37, of a German whaling industry in the Antarctic. During the season of 1938-39 seven German fleets comprising 56 whaling vessels took part in the Antarctic whaling. About half of the whale oil requirements of Germany were supplied in this way. The ambitions of German nationalism were thus extended to the Antarctic, and in 1938 an expedition was despatched under Captain Paul Ritscher with a view to acquiring territory.

W 7538/431/50  
of 1939.

421. The expedition was sponsored by Field-Marshal Göring and left Hamburg in the Lufthansa catapult ship *Schwabenland* on December 17th 1938. Between January 19th and February 15th 1939 approximately 350,000 sq. km. of territory in Princess Astrid and Crown Princess Märtha Lands were photographed from the air, and nearly twice this area was reconnoitred by eye observation. The region was renamed Neu-Schwabenland and was reported in the press to have been claimed for Germany. It lies entirely within the sector claimed by the Norwegian Government by the Decree of January 14th 1939 (paragraph 413), the coast of which had been discovered and mapped by Captain Riiser-Larsen in 1930 and by Captain Halvorsen in 1931.

AS 2142/2142/  
51 of 1944.

422. The precise extent of the German claim does not appear to have been defined, but it may be assumed to extend to the limits of the area examined between longs. 14° W. and 20° E. A map accompanying the report of the expedition shows the positions at which three flags were hoisted on the edge of the shelf-ice and at which twelve flags were dropped from the air over inland areas (see p. 166). No information is available as to whether at the time these flags were dropped a claim was asserted by a member of the expedition who had been authorised to act for the German Government; nor is there any evidence that the German Government have subsequently given any official recognition to these acts. It is clear, however, that the German Expedition did not start work in the Antarctic until five days after the Norwegian Decree of annexation had been issued.

## CHAPTER XIII

## THE PACIFIC SECTOR

423. Except for small sectors to which the Norwegian and Chilean Governments have laid claim (paragraphs 434 and 435), no formal assertion of sovereignty has yet been made by any Power over the region lying between the Falkland Islands Dependencies and the Ross Dependency.

## DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

424. Apart from (1) Peter I Island, which was discovered in January 1821 by Admiral Bellingshausen (paragraph 437); (2) a short stretch of shelf-ice in lat. 72° 30' S., long. 130° W., which was sighted in February 1934 by Lieutenant Gunnestad and Captain Nils Larsen during a flight from the *Thorshavn*; and (3) the most southerly points reached, without sighting land, by several other expeditions, the exploration of the Pacific sector lying between longs. 80° W. and 150° W. has been carried out exclusively by United States expeditions between 1929 and 1941. Marie Byrd Land and the east coast of the Ross Shelf Ice were discovered and explored by Admiral Byrd's expeditions of 1928-30, 1933-35 and 1939-41. The last of these expeditions was responsible for the only existing map of the coast between longs. 75° W. and 125° W., based on four flights (February 24th, 25th and 27th and December 22nd 1940). No landings were made during any of these flights. James W. Ellsworth Land was discovered in November 1935 when Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth and Mr. Hollick Kenyon flew from Graham Land

Antarctica :  
Hydrographic  
Office Chart,  
No. 2562,  
Washington,  
1943 ;  
*Polar Record*,  
No. 22, 1941,  
pp. 427-49.

415. After discussion with the Governor of the Falkland Islands, it was agreed that it was undesirable to leave undefined in this region any territory to which neither the Norwegian Government nor His Majesty's Government lay definite claim. On September 1st 1939 the Norwegian Minister was informed, in a note, that His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand recognise Norwegian sovereignty over the territory in question. The note further suggested that, in order to avoid any ambiguity, the western boundary of the Norwegian territory should be defined as long. 20° W.

W 9608/431/50  
of 1939.

W 12397/431/50  
of 1939.

416. The Norwegian Minister replied on October 4th, stating that the Norwegian Government agreed to this suggestion. At the request of the Norwegian Legation, however, it was decided not to issue any immediate statement to the press, presumably because this might raise complications in connection with the German claim to Neu-Schwabenland (paragraphs 421, 422). The British recognition of the eastern and western boundaries of the Norwegian sector has not yet been made public.

W 14297/13963/  
50 of 1939.

417. The northern boundary of the Norwegian sector was not mentioned in either the Norwegian Decree or in the British note of recognition. The memorandum sent by the Norwegian Minister on February 6th had raised the question of the limit of territorial waters in the Antarctic, and had pointed out that the right to exercise control over whaling vessels operating outside territorial waters within the boundaries of the British sectors was not quite clear (paragraphs 183-184 and 305). The memorandum emphasised that Norway did not wish to exclude other nations from the waters over which she might exercise dominion, but that Norwegian whalers should be ensured against the possibility of other nations excluding them from these waters or committing any action that might involve their industry in injury or loss.

418. Since British Sovereign claims in the Antarctic do not involve claims to the high seas, but only to the land and the coastal waters within the boundaries concerned (*i.e.*, within a distance of three nautical miles from any point on the coast), it was decided to leave the matter open in the British note of recognition. A map subsequently published by Norges Svalbard-og Ishavs-Undersøkelser (the Norwegian Government Department concerned with polar exploration) shows the Norwegian claim as the sector lying between longs. 20° W. and 45° E., extending southwards to the Pole and northwards to lat. 50° S. This northern boundary coincides with the northern boundary of the eastern part of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and includes Bouvet Island. The map also implies full Norwegian recognition of the "sector principle," a complete reversal of previous policy.

W 9608/431/50  
of 1939.

Reproduced  
in the *Polar  
Record*, No. 18,  
1939, p. 170.

418a. On January 14th 1939, the date of the issue of the Royal Decree placing Queen Maud Land under Norwegian sovereignty (paragraph 413), a copy of the Decree was communicated to other interested Governments. On March 17th 1939 the Chilean Foreign Minister replied in a note which might be taken as a recognition of the Norwegian claim, but which expressly reserved "all and any rights which the Chilean Government might assert" to Antarctic territories. Information is not available about any replies which may have been sent by other Governments.

O. Pinochet de  
la Barra: *La  
Antártida Chi-  
lena*, Santiago,  
1944, p. 154.

419. Subsequent exploration in the Norwegian sector has been carried out in 1939 by a German expedition under Captain Ritscher (paragraphs 421-422), and, a few weeks later, by Captain Hill of *Discovery II*. The whole Norwegian sector has since been named Queen Maud Land; the original small stretch of coast which had been given this name by Captain Riiser-Larsen in 1930 being renamed Crown Prince Olaf Land.

factory *Sevilla*, sighted land in the vicinity of long. 14° E. This discovery was subsequently named Princess Astrid Land (not to be confused with the original Princess Astrid Land in Princess Elizabeth Land which is now called King Leopold and Queen Astrid Coast; paragraph 387). Captain Bull, on the *Thorshammer*, also saw Princess Ragnhild Land later in the season.

411. Practically the whole whaling fleet lay idle during the season 1931-32. In the next season, Captain Riiser-Larsen made an unsuccessful attempt to carry out a sledge journey along the sea-ice lying off the coastline between longs. 60° E. and 20° W. Ice conditions were very unfavourable and the party failed to make a landfall. In 1936-37 Consul Christensen again visited the Antarctic, on the *Thorshavn*, with the intention of mapping certain of the areas already visited by the Norwegians, using modern methods and equipment. Much of the work of this expedition was carried out in the Australian Antarctic Territory (see paragraph 394), but on February 4th 1937 new land was discovered and claimed for Norway (see p. 165). On the following day this land was photographed from the air between longs. 40° E. and 34° E. and named Prince Harald Land. Two further survey flights were made in Princess Ragnhild Land. At the same time new land was observed from the *Thorshammer* in long. 8° 28' E.

412. These Norwegian expeditions brought back cartographic and scientific results of considerable importance covering almost the whole stretch of coastline between Enderby Land and Coats Land, a region which was visited by no other foreign expeditions during this period. The negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Norwegian Government relating to this sector have been closely connected with those relating to the Australian Antarctic Territory, and have already been summarised (paragraphs 380 and 392). It will be sufficient here to recall that the Norwegian Government refrained from advancing claims within the Australian Antarctic Territory on the basis of the tacit understanding that His Majesty's Government would not interfere with her own activities in the sector between the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Falkland Islands Dependencies, an understanding which had been reached with the concurrence of His Majesty's Governments in the Union of South Africa, the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand. The Norwegian Government, however, were naturally unwilling to give official recognition to the boundaries of the Australian sector until Norwegian explorers should have carried out sufficient work in the proposed Norwegian sector to enable them to establish a stronger basis for annexation.

413. A Royal Decree of January 14th 1939 placed under Norwegian sovereignty "that portion of the Antarctic Continent which stretches from the boundary of the Falkland Islands Dependencies in the west (Coats Land boundary) to the boundary of the Australian Antarctic Dependency in the east (45° east longitude) with the territory lying inside this shore and the adjacent waters." On the same day the Norwegian Minister left a note at the Foreign Office in which he stated that his Government formally recognised the boundaries of the Australian Antarctic Territory as defined in the Order in Council of February 7th 1933.

414. In reply to a request for further information, the Norwegian Minister sent, on February 6th, a copy of this Royal Decree and a French translation of a memorandum setting out the history of exploration in the area. It was clear that the Norwegian claim was based on prior discovery and exploration of a *terra nullius*, but while the Decree gave a precise definition to the eastern limit of the Norwegian claim (long. 45° E.) the position of the western limit remained ambiguous. The published *Summary of Proceedings* of the Imperial Conference of 1926 (paragraph 93) had stated that one of the regions to which a British title existed by virtue of discovery included "the outlying parts of Coats Land, viz., the portion not comprised within the Falkland Islands Dependencies" (*i.e.*, between longs. 16° 30' W. and 20° W.).

Lars Christensen :  
*My Last Expedition to the Antarctic*, Oslo, 1938 ;  
*Geog. Journ.*, Vol. 94, No. 3, 1939, pp. 192-203.

Norwegian Whalers' Assurance Association :  
*Atlas, 1936 ; and Charts, 1932 and 1937.*

W 10989/192/50 of 1930.  
W 4970/23/50 of 1934.  
W 14013/1084/50 of 1938.  
W 11651/98/50 of 1929.

W 2253/431/50 of 1939.  
*Norsk Lovtidende* No. 2, 1939, p. 31.

W 811/431/50 of 1939.

W 2161/431/50 of 1939.  
(English translation in *Polar Record*, No. 18, 1939, pp. 169-73.)

south, but made no comment to suggest that he realised the importance of his discovery. No part of the coastline of this sector was seen again until 1904, when Dr. W. S. Bruce discovered the northern portion of Coats Land. In 1915 Sir Ernest Shackleton made a landfall a little further east, and extended Coats Land to long. 16° 30' W. Most of Coats Land thus lies within the Falkland Islands Dependencies, but the stretch of coast extending between long. 20° W. and 16° 30' W., although discovered by British explorers, remained outside the boundary of the Dependencies.

407. The subsequent history of the exploration of this sector is almost exclusively Norwegian. The four voyages of the *Norvegia* organised by Consul Lars Christensen between 1927 and 1931 were primarily motivated by a desire to obtain information about new whaling grounds and to safeguard Norwegian whaling interests. It had been strongly felt in Norway that the regulations as to licences, leases and duties imposed by the British Government were restricting the Norwegian industry. While fully realising the necessity for international agreement on rational exploitation, the Norwegians undoubtedly resented this foreign control which arose despite the predominating position that Norway had always held in Antarctic whaling and the prominent part that Norwegians had played in Antarctic exploration. During the years 1919-28 Norwegian whalers paid £437,221 in duties to the Falkland Islands Government, and further duties were paid to the New Zealand Government for Ross Sea licences. Consul Christensen himself had never approved of the sector principle as applied in the Antarctic, and he had strongly supported Norwegian claims in order to counteract the extension of British claims. It was not until after 1929 that almost the entire whaling industry became pelagic and therefore largely independent of shore stations and the licensing system.

408. By 1927 Consul Christensen had planned to bring under Norwegian sovereignty all the land between long. 20° W. and 60° E., in addition to Bouvet and Peter I Islands. In this project he was supported by the Norwegian Foreign Office, but he was instructed not to name or claim any land which had previously come under the dominion of other powers. For these reasons the expeditions promoted by Consul Christensen concentrated most of their work in the sector lying between Enderby Land and Coats Land.

409. When the *Norvegia* met the *Discovery* off Enderby Land on January 14th 1930 the leaders of the two expeditions agreed on long. 45° E. as the boundary line between Norwegian and British interests (paragraph 353). Accordingly the *Norvegia* sailed westwards along the coast. Captain Riiser-Larsen then made flights to the south which resulted in the discovery of Queen Maud Land (subsequently renamed Crown Prince Olaf Land) and Crown Princess Märtha Land. No landing was made, and the published accounts of the expedition contain no reference to the making of any formal territorial claims; the aeroplane did not, in fact, fly over the new land at any point. However, at a public lecture in Oslo after the return of the expedition, Captain Riiser-Larsen stated that during their recent voyage he and Captain Lützw-Holm had succeeded in "taking possession of two new lands." On the same occasion Consul Christensen thanked Herr Esmarch, the Secretary General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for his assistance, and said that without the support of the Norwegian authorities he would have made no progress "in the unusual work of annexing land."

410. In the season of 1930-31 the *Norvegia* returned to the Antarctic and Captain Riiser-Larsen discovered Princess Ragnhild Land. On February 17th 1931 he made a flight inland and dropped a flag annexing this area for Norway (see p. 164). He was also able to confirm a survey of the western part of Crown Prince Olaf Land made earlier in the season by Captain Borchgrevink of the floating factory *Antarctic*. During this season a number of other Norwegian vessels added to these discoveries. Captain Halvorsen, on the floating

Lars  
Christensen :  
*Such is the  
Antarctic*,  
London, 1935,  
p. 32.

Hj. Riiser-  
Larsen :  
*Geog. Review*,  
Vol. 20, No. 4,  
1930, pp. 555-73.

W 4970/23/50  
of 1934.

W 5797/1/50  
of 1930.

Guunar  
Isachsen :  
*Geog. Review*,  
Vol. 22, No. 1,  
1932, pp. 83-96.

January 11th started from a point at least 600 miles within the Australian boundary, but possibly the ice floe from which the plane took off was outside territorial waters.

W 2838/431/50  
of 1939.

404. The Australian Councillor at Washington was instructed to raise this question informally with the United States authorities, avoiding reference to the confidential information about Mr. Cordell Hull's letter. The Councillor was given the impression that the State Department had not considered the matter, but he was reminded that the State Department had always reserved their position regarding all Antarctic claims and took such action in the case of the agreement with France regarding mutual rights of aeroplane flights in the Antarctic (paragraph 370).

#### PLANS FOR FUTURE AUSTRALIAN INVESTIGATIONS

W 14898/13963/  
50 of 1939.

405. On Mr. Ellsworth's return to Australia in February 1939 (paragraph 402), the Commonwealth Government purchased the *Wyatt Earp* for a fraction of her original cost and were contemplating further Antarctic exploration and research under the general direction of Sir Douglas Mawson. Sir Hubert Wilkins, upon whose recommendation the *Wyatt Earp* had been acquired, immediately put forward proposals for establishing meteorological stations on Macquarie Island and in the Australian Antarctic Territory, and suggested that if the Australian Government would lend the *Wyatt Earp* he would himself undertake to equip the expedition in all other respects, and would co-operate closely with the proposed United States Antarctic Service, by exchanging and relaying meteorological reports. In view, however, of the international situation, the *Wyatt Earp* was fitted out as a munitions ship for the Australian navy, and on August 4th the Federal Cabinet rejected Sir Hubert's proposals, because it was then felt that the organisation of an Antarctic expedition should be deferred until more pressing claims on finances had eased. While hopes for a new expedition thus disappeared, an interesting development of more permanent significance had occurred. Sir Douglas Mawson had reached a preliminary agreement with leading members of the Government that they should maintain the *Wyatt Earp* and make her available, manned with naval personnel, for approved scientific parties organised to work in the Australian Antarctic Territory. He then turned to the Universities for help with the scientific programme. The delegates at the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Conference were in agreement that all the Australian Universities should co-operate in maintaining a permanent scientific party on the Antarctic continent for a period of not less than fifteen years. Help from each University would take the form of providing each year the expenses for one or more post-graduate students or members of staff who would undertake investigations into some branch of science. As a base for a permanent Antarctic station for Australian occupation, Cape Freshfield in King George V Land appeared to provide the most favourable site, and it was proposed to investigate the possibilities of this area during the summer of 1940. The war, however, prevented any further development of these plans.

W 14298/13963/  
59 of 1939.

*Polar Record*,  
No. 20, 1940,  
pp. 329-30.

## CHAPTER XII

### QUEEN MAUD LAND

#### DISCOVERY, EXPLORATION AND NORWEGIAN CLAIMS

406. It was in this sector that the first undoubted land of the main mass of the Antarctic Continent was seen, although not recognised as land. On February 16th\* 1820, only one month after Bransfield had sighted Trinity Peninsula, Captain Bellingshausen saw the shelf-ice off what is now called Princess Astrid Land. He described the ice cliffs and the upward sloping surface towards the

\* Corrected to Gregorian Calendar.

401. More recently there has been reason to suppose that the State Department is not opposed to the extension of American interests within the Australian Antarctic Territory. In May 1939 Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth announced his intention of undertaking another Antarctic expedition in the region of the "Enderby quadrant". In a letter to the press he specifically disclaimed any intention of asserting rights over territory in this region already claimed by Australia. He was accompanied by Sir Hubert Wilkins, who visited Australia on his way to join the expedition in South Africa. Sir Hubert called upon the Minister for External Affairs and informed him that he was going with Mr. Ellsworth not as a member of the expedition, but as "technical adviser" only, and that while in the Antarctic he would be free to act independently in any way that the Commonwealth Government might desire. He offered to raise the British flag on any portion of the continent within the Australian Antarctic Territory that might be visited by him. After consideration had been given by the Department to Sir Hubert's offer, it was decided that further raisings of the flag or the reading of additional proclamations was unnecessary. The reasons for this were explained to Sir Hubert, who was supplied with a considerable amount of material dealing with earlier activities in the Australian sector, including copies of the five proclamations read by Sir Douglas Mawson during the B.A.N.Z.A.R. Expedition, and a copy of the Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act. It was felt that the utmost circumspection should be used not to provide any ground for resentment in the mind of Mr. Ellsworth. It was accordingly decided that the interests of the Commonwealth Government could best be furthered by issuing to Sir Hubert a general authority, signed by the Minister for External Affairs, who is in charge of the administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act, to enter upon, explore and report on the Australian Antarctic Territory. Sir Hubert was thus given official status as a representative of the Commonwealth Government.

*New York Times*,  
May 6th 1938.

W 432/431/50  
of 1939.

402. The expedition left Cape Town for the Antarctic on October 29th 1938. Ice conditions were exceptionally severe, and by the time the *Wyatt Earp* reached Princess Elizabeth Land it was considered too late to attempt a flight across the continent to the Bay of Whales as had been planned. On January 11th 1939 Mr. J. H. Lymburner and Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth made a flight due southwards to about lat. 72° S., long. 79° E. At this point a United States flag was dropped with a copper cylinder containing a document claiming for the United States the area which had been explored south of lat. 70° S. (see p. 165). This region was named "American Highland". Mr. Ellsworth stated that he had "explored", in one afternoon, an area "288 miles north and south by 300 miles east and west, with a rounded southern end, a total of 77,000 square miles." In long. 79° E. the latitude of the coast of Princess Elizabeth Land is about 68° 20' S., and the 70th parallel is about 100 nautical miles inland. This American claim to the hinterland of Princess Elizabeth Land was made in contradiction of Mr. Ellsworth's public announcement, mentioned above, that he had no intention of claiming any territory within the Australian Sector. Further, Sir Hubert Wilkins on his arrival in Australia, had given an assurance that Mr. Ellsworth would officially communicate his intentions to the Commonwealth Government and request permission for flights before he left Cape Town. No such communication had, in fact, been received.

*Polar Record*,  
No. 27, 1944,  
p. 114.

403. In reply to a request for information as to the specific claims made by Mr. Ellsworth, Sir Hubert Wilkins, in a radio message of January 14th 1939, stated that Mr. Ellsworth had shown him, on arrival at Cape Town, a confidential letter signed by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, in which the latter "suggested (while not officially authorising) that Mr. Ellsworth should claim the area actually explored irrespective of previous claims on the sector principle, and that as it was the intention to start from the offshore, it was deemed unnecessary to inform the Commonwealth of Australia." It may be added that the flight of

W 1251/431/50  
of 1939.

W 1683/431/50  
of 1939.

The note, however, drew attention to the concern of the Commonwealth Government at the failure of certain Norwegian explorers to respect Australian sovereignty over the territories within the Australian Antarctic Territory. Whilst appreciating that none of the formal acts or claims made on these occasions had been recognised by the Norwegian Government, His Majesty's Government in Australia, in associating themselves with the renewed assurance mentioned above, now desired, in view of these events, to receive in return from the Norwegian Government a specific assurance of their recognition of the Commonwealth boundaries in the Antarctic as defined in the Order in Council of February 7th 1933. At the same time the opportunity was taken to inform the Norwegian Government that His Majesty's Government recognised the French claim to Adélie Land as defined by the Decree of April 1st 1938 (paragraph 371).

397. On January 14th 1939 a Royal Decree was issued annexing to Norway the Atlantic sector between the Australian Antarctic Territory and the Falkland Islands Dependencies (paragraph 413). It is probable that the decision to issue this Decree was due to uncertainty about the possible activities of Mr. Ellsworth's expedition at this time (paragraph 402). On the same day the Norwegian Government formally recognised the boundaries of the Australian Antarctic Territory as defined in the Order in Council of February 7th 1933.

398. If any question relating to discoveries in this area should arise in the future between His Majesty's Government and the Norwegian Government, it may be useful to consult a map entitled "The Course of Antarctic Exploration between longs. 20° W. and 110° E.", published in the *Geographical Journal*, Vol. 94, No. 3, 1939. This map is based on an impartial study of all the available records, and shows, in different colours, the overlapping discoveries and dates of the different expeditions.

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF GERMAN CLAIMS

399. The claim of the German Antarctic Expedition of 1901-03 to have discovered Kaiser Wilhelm II Land is indisputable. Existing German claims to sovereignty in the Antarctic, however, were renounced in the general terms of Article 118 of the Treaty of Versailles.

#### UNITED STATES INTERESTS

400. Although the United States Government have never put forward an official claim to land within the Australian Antarctic Territory, they have avoided recognition of British rights and might at any time advance a claim based on the discoveries of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes in 1840 (paragraph 348 and Appendix XII, pp. 182-184) and of Mr. Lincoln Ellsworth in 1939 (paragraphs 402-403). Such a claim would, however, run counter to their expressed policy with regard to the validity of Antarctic claims (paragraph 517). In 1924 Mr. Hughes, the Secretary of State, wrote to an enquiring citizen as follows:—

"It is the opinion of the Department that the discovery of lands unknown to civilisation even when coupled with a formal taking of possession, does not support a valid claim of sovereignty unless the discovery is followed by an actual settlement of the discovered country. In the absence of an act of Congress assertative in a domestic sense of dominion over Wilkes Land this Department would be reluctant to declare that the United States possessed a right of sovereignty over that territory."

This opinion had not been modified in 1929, when a resolution introduced in the Senate by Senator Tydings attempted to obtain authorization for the President to "lay claim to all areas in the Antarctic which have been discovered or explored by American citizens" (paragraph 321).

W 811/431/50  
of 1939.

D. H. Miller :  
*Foreign Affairs*,  
Vol. 5, No. 3,  
1927,  
pp. 509-10.

Norwegian Minister expressing the willingness of His Majesty's Governments to enter into diplomatic discussion on any specific Antarctic problems which the Norwegian Government might desire to raise. The note recognised Norwegian special interests in the Antarctic and repeated the assurance that there was no intention of claiming British sovereignty over the region between the western boundary of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the eastern boundary of Coats Land. At the same time His Majesty's Minister at Oslo was instructed to inform the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Governments concerned regarded as unimpeachable the British claim to sovereignty over the whole of the Falkland Islands Dependencies (including the whole of Coats Land), the Ross Dependency, and the Australian Antarctic Territory: that since public opinion strongly supported these claims, it would be impossible to recognise the claims of any other country in any of these areas: there remained, however, the area between the western boundary of the Australian Antarctic Territory and the eastern boundary of Coats Land, to which, so far as was known, no claims had yet been put forward by any country. Mr. Dormer informed M. Mowinckel in this sense on November 16th 1934, reminding him that Sir Charles Wingfield had made a similar communication to him in December 1929 (paragraph 380). M. Mowinckel merely remarked that the communication was interesting and that he would study the question.

W 10293/23/50  
of 1934.

393. On February 20th 1935 Captain Klarius Mikklesen, in the Norwegian tanker *Thorshavn*, found land in lat. 67° 50' S., long. 80° 45' E., which he followed to lat. 68° 29' S., long. 78° 36' E. He hoisted the Norwegian flag (see p. 165) and named the land Ingrid Christensen Land (now called Ingrid Christensen Coast). It lies within the Australian Antarctic Territory and appears to be almost identical with the land discovered by Sir Douglas Mawson in February 1931 and named by him Princess Elizabeth Land. When this news was published in the Norwegian press the Norwegian Prime Minister was reported as saying that the question of an official Norwegian annexation had not been considered by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as the country was most probably in the British sector.

W 2302/697/50  
of 1935.

W 2366/697/50  
of 1935.

394. In the season 1936-37 Consul Lars Christensen made his fourth visit to the Antarctic, in the *Thorshavn*, with a view to mapping certain of the areas and coastline already visited by the Norwegians, using modern methods and equipment. Survey flights were made and photographs obtained of almost the whole coastline of King Leopold and Queen Astrid Coast and Ingrid Christensen Coast (in Princess Elizabeth Land), and of Lars Christensen Coast (in Mac-Robertson Land). On January 30th Consul Lars Christensen landed for the first time on the Antarctic Continent at Klarius Mikklesen Mountain (Scullin Monolith). A Norwegian flag was hoisted and a depot established. The coastline of Mac-Robertson and Kemp Lands was then photographed westwards to Proclamation Island (in Enderby Land). All these areas lie within the Australian Antarctic Territory. The expedition then concluded its work in the unclaimed sector to the west (paragraph 411).

Lars  
Christensen :  
*My Last  
Expedition to  
the Antarctic*,  
Oslo, 1938 ;  
*Geog. Journ.*,  
Vol. 94, No. 3,  
1939, pp. 192-  
203.

395. In April 1938 the Norwegian Minister called at the Foreign Office and inquired whether His Majesty's Government were aware of any recent developments in the Antarctic such as might alter the territorial position. He stated that he would be glad to receive an assurance that His Majesty's Government still maintained the attitude and views which had been communicated to the Norwegian Government on October 23rd 1934. This verbal inquiry was followed in June 1938 by a similar written inquiry.

W 8258/1084/50  
of 1938.

396. After consultations with His Majesty's Governments in Australia and New Zealand, the Norwegian Minister was handed a note, on November 11th 1938, reaffirming the assurances given in 1929 and 1934 that there was no intention of claiming British sovereignty over the region between Enderby Land and Coats Land.

W 14013/1084/  
50 of 1938.



Government responsible for the administration of the Australian Antarctic Territory, were primarily concerned with proposals for the naming of parts of it.

W 246/23/50  
of 1934.

388. In December 1933 the *Norwegian Journal of Commerce and Shipping* published, in instalments, sections from Consul Bjarne Aagaard's history of the Antarctic, then in preparation. This gave a fairly complete account of the formal steps taken to extend British control of the Antarctic, but suggested that much of the expansion was unjustified and had taken place at the expense of foreign countries. The author suggested that the Norwegian Government should protest against these claims, and should propose a conference with His Majesty's Governments and the United States Government with a view to an agreed partition of the Antarctic, the preservation of Antarctic whales, and uniform nomenclature based on priority.

W 952/23/50  
of 1934.

389. On January 26th 1934 these views found official expression in a memorandum left at the Foreign Office by the Norwegian Minister. The Norwegian Government expressed their concern that nearly two-thirds of the Antarctic Continent had been placed under foreign sovereignty, which threatened a possible restriction of Norwegian activities, and they stated that they had considered the desirability of an international conference on the Antarctic; they had, however, concluded in favour of a discussion between British and Norwegian experts, the result of whose deliberations could be transmitted to their respective Governments, who would then try to settle all questions which might not be clear or might have given rise to divergent opinions.

W 8338/23/50  
of 1934.

390. It seemed likely from this step that the Norwegian Government intended to annex the sector between Enderby Land and Coats Land, but it was thought that, if they should do so without prior consultation with the British Governments concerned, the boundaries which they would be obliged to claim might conflict with those claimed as British territory. It might, therefore, be advantageous to agree with them beforehand the exact lines of delimitation. On the other hand, the western limit of the Australian Antarctic Territory had been defined in the Order in Council of February 7th 1933, and could not well be modified, whilst the eastern limit of the outlying parts of Coats Land, mentioned in the Imperial Conference Report of 1926 as an area to which British title already existed, had never been publicly defined and no formal steps had been taken to attach this area to the British Empire, so that there was no legal basis for an agreed delimitation. Moreover, discussions with Norway could hardly be kept secret, and, if news leaked out, foreign countries, particularly France and the United States, might think that Norway and the British Empire were dividing the Antarctic between themselves and be moved to stake their own claims or to protest against the British ones. Thus the Norwegian suggestion for discussions between experts had to be declined. At the same time, it seemed desirable to express the willingness of His Majesty's Governments at any time to discuss with the Norwegian Government through the diplomatic channel any specific points which the Norwegian Government might desire to raise.

391. Another motive behind the Norwegian note appeared to be the fear that, if they should refrain from annexing the sector, some other power might have designs on it, possibly Britain: in that case it was thought that they might be content with a formal assurance that there was no intention of claiming British sovereignty there: such an assurance, combined with express recognition of the special interests of Norway in the Antarctic, might have the further advantage that, if the Norwegian Government, on the strength of it, formally established themselves in that sector, public opinion in Norway might be reconciled to British claims to a large part of the continent outside it.

W 9240/23/50  
of 1934.

392. Accordingly, on October 23rd 1934, with the concurrence of His Majesty's Governments in the Commonwealth of Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa, a note was sent to the

activities to this sector, and agreed that, in the event of its doing so and claiming for the Norwegian Crown the territory discovered, no grounds existed on which objection could be taken.

384. In January and February 1931 a number of Norwegian whaling vessels were working in the pack-ice off the western part of the proposed Australian sector and added to the earlier discoveries. On January 12th Captain Brunvoll of the *Seksern* sighted land between long. 64° E. and 66° 34' E. The same land was seen by Gunner Bjerkö in the *Bouvet II* and by Gunner Sjøvold in the *Bouvet III*, who traced the coast westwards to long. 62° E. The land between long. 65° E. and 60° E. was sighted by Gunner Walter in the *Thorgaut*. Consul Lars Christensen, who was making his first voyage to the Antarctic in the *Thorshavn*, sighted Cape Darnley and then proceeded westwards, sighting the coast frequently. Captain Daehli in the *Hilda Knudsen* sighted land between long. 60° E. and 58° E. Captain Borchgrevink in the *Antarctic* surveyed the coast of Enderby and Kemp Lands between long. 59° E. and 51° 30' E. Captain Mikklesen of the *Torlyn* traced the coast and made two landings between lat. 68° 50' S., long. 71° E. and lat. 68° 10' S., long. 65° E. This newly discovered land was named Lars Christensen Land (now known as Lars Christensen Coast) and appeared to be a continuation of Mac-Robertson Land.

Lars  
Christensen:  
*Such is the  
Antarctic*,  
London, 1935.

385. No representations were made to the Norwegian Government about these activities since the best policy seemed to be to rely on the friendly understanding reached between His Majesty's Minister at Oslo and the Norwegian Government in 1929-30 (paragraphs 378-383). On August 6th 1931, however, in handing to the Norwegian Chargé d'Affaires the recognition by His Majesty's Government of Norwegian sovereignty over Peter I Island (paragraph 440), the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs took the opportunity to remind him of British interests in the Australian sector, and to say that formal action in the matter was under consideration and that the Norwegian Government were expected to show the same friendly disposition towards British claims as was being shown towards the Norwegian annexation of Peter I Island.

W 8423/29/50  
of 1931.

386. On February 14th 1933, the date of publication of the Order in Council, Sir Charles Wingfield handed an advance copy to the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as an act of courtesy and as evidence of the desire of His Majesty's Governments to maintain the friendliest collaboration with Norway in the Antarctic. At the same time he reminded him of the communications made to them in 1929-30 concerning the British title to the region which was the subject of the Order. No comment was received from the Norwegian Government at this time.

W 1894/209/50  
of 1933.

387. In the southern summer of 1933-34 Consul Lars Christensen circumnavigated the Antarctic continent. On January 17th 1934, in the course of this voyage, an aeroplane flight was made from a point in lat. 66° 40' S., long. 86° 45' E., and land which was believed to be new was seen. With the permission of the King of Norway, Consul Christensen named this land Princess Astrid Land, after the daughter of the Crown Prince. It lies within the Australian Antarctic Territory, and should not be confused with the Princess Astrid Land (long. 10° E. to 14° E.) in Queen Maud Land, to which the name was later transferred. In May 1934 it was announced that, in recognition of Belgian work in Antarctic exploration, the King of Norway, with the consent of the King of the Belgians, had decided to name this territory King Leopold and Queen Astrid Land. The Norwegian Prime Minister explained to His Majesty's Minister that the Queen of the Belgians thought that the land had been named after her, and that the new name had been given at the instance of the Belgian Special Ambassador, himself a polar explorer. In order to remind the Norwegian Prime Minister that the land lay within the Australian sector, His Majesty's Minister took an opportunity of telling him that his explanation of the change of name had been communicated to His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth, who, as the

W 3633/23/50  
of 1934.

W 5071/23/50  
of 1934.

W 6280/23/50  
of 1934.

paragraph 378. The Prime Minister made no comment on the extent of the British claims except to say that Norway could not in principle accept the system of claiming sectors including enormous tracts of sea. As regards the *Norvegia*, he gave no indication of the plans of the expedition, but he repeated that it had been instructed to avoid the territories specified in the Imperial Conference *Summary of Proceedings* (paragraph 93), and that, in any event, any acts of annexation performed by the *Norvegia* would have to be referred to the Norwegian Government for confirmation, when all the circumstances could be taken into consideration.

W 183/1/50  
of 1930.

381. Meanwhile, the first reports of the *Norvegia* expedition had been published in the press on January 1st 1930, and were to the effect that new land, on which the Norwegian flag had been hoisted on December 22nd 1929, had been discovered between Enderby Land and Kemp Land, that is, inside the Australian sector (*see p. 162*). Mr. Wingfield at once called on the Norwegian Prime Minister, who explained that the *Norvegia* expedition was a purely private venture, and its members could not in any way commit the Norwegian Government. He said that Norway did not wish to acquire possession of territory which could be of no possible use to her, especially as it was inaccessible from the sea.

W 939/1/50  
of 1930.

382. News was subsequently received of the meeting between the *Norvegia* expedition and Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition referred to in paragraph 353, and on January 22nd, in accordance with instructions received from the Foreign Office, Mr. Wingfield called on the Norwegian Prime Minister and handed him the following memorandum:—

"His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom observe with surprise that, notwithstanding the information communicated to the Norwegian Government in Mr. Gascoigne's aide-mémoire of the 12th October last, the *Norvegia* expedition was reported to have occupied territory situated between Enderby Land and Kemp Land, and therefore in an area to which His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, with the support of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, considered that they had an unimpeachable claim. In view of the previous assurances given by the Norwegian Government, His Majesty's Government felt sure that the explanation of the proceedings of the *Norvegia* expedition was to be found in the fact that that expedition was a private undertaking, and that its action, recently reported in the press, had been taken without the special authority of the Norwegian Government. They were accordingly highly gratified to learn, not only that on practical grounds the Norwegian Government did not attach importance to possession of the territory in question, but that, as reported in the latest press messages, the *Norvegia* had moved to the west of Enderby Land and proposed to restrict her operations to unclaimed areas between Enderby Land and Coats Land.

"In the circumstances, and having regard to the friendly relations subsisting between the two countries, His Majesty's Government feel confident that the Norwegian Government would not desire to pursue a claim to the territory in question which His Majesty's Government would feel bound to contest, and they trust that the *Norvegia* will adhere to her intended programme, as reported in the press."

M. Mowinckel's only comment was that he was glad to have the views of His Majesty's Government in this form, which would preclude misunderstanding.

W 2476/1/50  
of 1930.

383. The subsequent movements of the *Norvegia* were confined to the area between the westernmost limit of the proposed Australian sector and the easternmost limit of Coats Land (paragraphs 409-410). His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa were warned in advance that the Norwegian expedition was likely to direct its

376. The Norwegian Government replied immediately, on October 14th 1929, expressing appreciation of the tone of the communication, and taking note of the information relating to the voyage of the *Discovery*.

W 10094/98/50  
of 1929.

377. On November 4th 1929, the Norwegian Minister addressed a note which represented the considered reply of his Government to the British note regarding the voyage of the *Discovery*. He stated that:—

W 10573/98/50  
of 1929.

"The *Norvegia* expedition is continuing for the season 1929-30 the scientific research work which the expedition has previously carried on in the Antarctic. By a Royal Decree of July 4th last, this expedition has been given a general authorisation—as given to *Norvegia's* earlier expeditions in previous years—to take possession, in the name of His Majesty the King, of any new land which the expedition might discover and which previously had not been occupied in due form by the Government of any other country. The decree has been issued on the assumption that no land will be occupied which falls within the areas mentioned in the *Summary of Proceedings* of the Imperial Conference in London in 1926."

378. It was decided that it would not be desirable to reply officially to this note, but that the best course would be for Mr. Wingfield, the newly-appointed Minister to Oslo, to take an early opportunity of explaining, in the friendliest terms, that His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, entirely supported by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, considered their right to the whole so-called Australian sector unimpeachable and were not prepared to recognise any other country's sovereignty over any part of the sector, except that of France over Adélie Land. Feeling on this subject was very strong, and there could be no possibility of any withdrawal from this position. While on this subject, Mr. Wingfield was to mention, as a matter on which His Majesty's Government wished to keep the Norwegian Government fully informed, that Sir Hubert Wilkins was continuing this season his exploration of the Falkland Islands Dependencies and of the territory to the west of it as far as the Ross Dependency. Sir Hubert Wilkins, like Sir Douglas Mawson, had received a commission from the King, which empowered him to take possession, in the King's name, of such territories now unknown as might be discovered in the course of his expedition. Sir Hubert Wilkins was actually engaged on this task.

W 11073/98/50  
of 1929.

W 11269/98/50  
of 1929.

379. If M. Mowinckel replied that His Majesty's Government were attempting to annex the whole Antarctic continent and islands, Mr. Wingfield was to deny the charge in the following terms: His Majesty's Government, out of friendship to Norway, waived their claim to Bouvet Island. They had not protested against Norway's claim to Peter I Island, and he had no knowledge that any claim had ever been put forward to the sector between Enderby Land and Coats Land. In regard to the Falkland Islands Dependencies, Ross Dependency and the sectors now being taken possession of by Sir Douglas Mawson and Sir Hubert Wilkins, His Majesty's Government made, however, a claim which they not only regarded as unimpeachable but which they had translated, or were translating, into concrete sovereign possession. A large sector of the Antarctic was still left open, and in all the remainder under British sovereignty His Majesty's Governments would welcome Norwegian scientific and economic co-operation, and felt sure that this would prove as harmonious in the future as it had in the past. Moreover, His Majesty's Government looked with the greatest sympathy upon Norwegian enterprise in Arctic regions, and they hoped, before long, to make certain practical proposals for a settlement of all the questions outstanding in those regions which would satisfy both sides.

380. Mr. Wingfield, as soon as he was able to do so, obtained an interview with the Norwegian Prime Minister, and on December 21st 1929, made a verbal communication to him in the sense of

W 12115/98/50  
of 1929.

Dependency, could hardly be expected to welcome the extension of these claims to another third of the continent. At the same time, it might soften the blow for public opinion in Norway if the Government could point to some compensating achievement which would enhance their prestige. On this reasoning there appeared at first to be room for a bargain with Norway, on the lines either that Norwegian sovereignty over the sector between the Australian Antarctic Territory and Coats Land should be declared about the same time as the Order in Council should be made, or that recognition of Norwegian sovereignty over that area should be promised in return for Norwegian recognition of British claims in other parts of the Antarctic. Examination of this idea, however, led to the conclusion that the Norwegian Government, in the light of their determination to oppose the application of the "sector principle" in the Arctic, could not be expected to recognise it expressly in the Antarctic, and that, as their case against Denmark in the Hague arbitration of their rival claims in East Greenland rested to some extent on the contention that territories, by whomsoever discovered, remain, unless effectively occupied, *terrae nullius*, they could not well recognise British sovereignty over a large area which, in their opinion, did not fulfil this condition. The Hague Court had, in fact, decided against Norway in the East Greenland case, but public opinion in Norway was still excited on the subject and express recognition of the British claim would, it was thought, be none the less embarrassing for the Norwegian Government; the most that could be hoped for was that they would refrain from protesting against the Order in Council. The British claim is based on the contention that a British title exists on various grounds and is good, whether or not expressly recognised by foreign countries. In so far as no protests are made against the Order in Council, the claim is strengthened. It was therefore considered that British policy should aim, not so much at obtaining Norwegian recognition as at forestalling active Norwegian opposition.

374. It was decided early in 1928 to call the attention of the Norwegian Government to the passage in the Imperial Conference *Summary of Proceedings* dealing with the Antarctic. Later in the year, on learning that Great Britain was willing to waive her claim to Bouvet Island (paragraph 454) the Norwegian Government undertook not to occupy any land in the areas specified by the Imperial Conference, but no undertaking was given in regard to the two sectors between the Ross Sea and the Falkland Islands Dependencies, to which His Majesty's Government had as yet laid no claim.

W 9927/98/50  
of 1929.

375. In October 1929 the *Daily News* published articles strongly criticising Norwegian annexationist activities in the Antarctic. These articles were based on telegrams from Sir Douglas Mawson, and aroused the greatest indignation in Norway. In consequence of these indiscretions, it was decided to make a frank communication to the Norwegian Government informing them of the objects of Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition. His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Oslo accordingly addressed a note to the Norwegian Government stating that His Majesty's Government dissociated themselves from the attack in the press, and enclosing a memorandum regarding the voyage of the *Discovery*. The essential passage in the memorandum read as follows:—

W 10456/98/50  
of 1929.

"The expedition has been arranged for the Antarctic season 1929-30, but may be extended to include a further season. It is the intention of the Commonwealth Government that the expedition should operate *principally* in the sector between Enderby Land and the Ross Sea, with a view to the completion of the geographical and scientific work previously carried out in this sector by Sir Douglas Mawson and by other British explorers and of the formal establishment of a British title to this sector, with the exception of the French territory of Adélie Land."

restating the French position in the matter. He proposed that, on the understanding that the limit of long.  $136^{\circ}$  E. was not contested as the western boundary, the eastern boundary limit should be agreed as one lying somewhere between longs.  $142^{\circ}$  E. and  $147^{\circ}$  E. He further added that "Adélie Land, even with the most extreme limits, forms only a minute enclave, and the United Kingdom Government might well agree to the widest definition of the limits of Adélie Land as French territory."

369. On October 13th 1937 the French Government was informed in a note that His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and in Australia had given most careful consideration to the matter: whilst appreciating the friendly spirit in which the French Government had acted, it was felt that their suggestion to fix the eastern boundary of Adélie Land east of long.  $142^{\circ}$  E. could not be accepted. The note set out the reasons for this conclusion, drew attention to the contemporary accounts of D'Urville's discoveries mentioned above (paragraph 367), and pointed out that His Majesty's Governments could only accept the French claim to the area actually sighted by D'Urville, which had been shown by Sir Douglas Mawson's discoveries to extend at the most from longs.  $136^{\circ} 30'$  E. to  $142^{\circ}$  E. The note also emphasised that Cape Denison, only 16 miles east of the  $142^{\text{nd}}$  meridian, had become indelibly associated with Australian tradition and history, and that a memorial cross had been erected there to the two members of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition who lost their lives in 1912. When delivering this note, His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris was instructed to negotiate for an arrangement whereby a free right of passage by air across the French sector between the Australian territories on either side should be recognised by the French Government. The Australian Government, while desirous of fixing the western boundary of Adélie Land at long.  $136^{\circ} 30'$  E., would be willing, in return for such an arrangement, to agree to the French Government's suggestion of long.  $136^{\circ}$  E.

W 17129/1365/  
50 of 1937.

370. On March 5th 1938 the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs replied to this note in a memorandum to the effect that the French Government could not refuse to take these facts into consideration, and accordingly proposed to assign limits to Adélie Land in longs.  $136^{\circ}$  E. and  $142^{\circ}$  E. At the same time the French Government expressed their willingness to accord British aircraft the free right of passage over Adélie Land on condition that French aircraft would be accorded a similar right in respect of British Antarctic territories. In October 1938 His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand accepted an arrangement on the above-mentioned basis (see paragraph 58).

W 3061/1084/50  
of 1938.

Treaty Series,  
No. 73 (1938);  
Cmd. 5900.

371. Meanwhile, the boundaries of Adélie Land were finally fixed, by a Decree of April 1st 1938, as the islands and territories south of lat.  $60^{\circ}$  S., lying between longs.  $136^{\circ}$  E. and  $142^{\circ}$  E. The French sector, as thus defined, is therefore recognised by His Majesty's Governments, and does not appear to have been disputed by any other country.

*Journal Officiel*,  
April 6th 1938  
(amended April  
14th 1938).  
W 4586/1084/50  
of 1938.

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF NORWEGIAN CLAIMS

372. The policy recommended by the Imperial Conference of 1926 was, in effect, that steps should be taken to bring the whole of the Antarctic, excepting those areas to which a good foreign title already existed, under British control. In order to do this, it was not only necessary to establish a British title by effective occupation, but also, in the meantime, to ward off encroachments by foreign Powers. From 1927 onwards, therefore, the expeditions of the *Norvegia*, and other Norwegian activities in the Antarctic, constituted a pressing problem.

W 115/1/50  
of 1930.

373. It was appreciated that the Norwegian Government, opposed as they were to the "sector principle", and apprehensive already at British claims to one third of the Antarctic continent, represented by the Falkland Islands Dependencies and the Ross

E(37) 6 Secret  
of 1937.

- W 11905/646/17  
of 1927.
361. In 1927 the possibility of acquiring Adélie Land and some of the French sub-Antarctic islands in exchange for British territory in the Pacific was raised. The matter was discussed at the Imperial Conference of 1930, but it was finally decided not to lay these proposals before the French Government.
- W 5012/108/17  
of 1931.
- Secret E(37) 6  
of 1937.
362. Accordingly, the Order in Council of February 7th 1933 merely excepted Adélie Land from the territory placed under the authority of the Commonwealth. As a matter of courtesy, a copy of the Order was communicated to the French Government on the day of its publication in the *London Gazette* (February 14th 1933), and their attention was drawn to the explicit exclusion of Adélie Land from its scope.
- W 10902/209/50  
of 1933.
363. On September 22nd 1933, the Counsellor to the French Embassy called at the Foreign Office and stated that the French Government understood Adélie Land as extending from long. 136° E. to 147° E. He confirmed this in a letter the next day. On October 24th, before this letter had been answered, the French Ambassador informed the Foreign Office in a note that the making of the Order in Council had led the French Government to define their claims as "the islands and territories comprised within the sector bounded by 60° S. latitude and the 136° and 147° E. longitude." In order to be in a position to reply to the communication of the Order in Council, they asked whether this definition gave rise to any observations on the British side.
- W 12282/209/50  
of 1933.
364. His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia remained of opinion that, notwithstanding the limits mentioned in the 1913 note (paragraph 358), a claim by the French Government to any territory beyond longs. 136° 30' E. or 142° E. should be resisted, on the ground that they could have no good title to territory beyond the limits of that sighted by D'Urville and established on his own charts.
- W 14125/209/50  
of 1933.
365. On April 13th 1934, the French Ambassador was accordingly informed in a note that His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and in the Commonwealth of Australia could not accept the definition of Adélie Land put forward by the French Government.
- W 2215/23/50  
of 1934.
366. On June 15th 1934 a member of the French Embassy called at the Foreign Office with a copy of Sir F. Bertie's note of March 29th 1913, and said that the French Government had always regarded that note as evidence that the French claim to the sector between longs. 136° E. and 147° E. was not disputed by His Majesty's Government. He asked whether the existence of the note had been overlooked or there had been a change of mind. He was assured that an answer would be sent when the files had been consulted. Later, he was informed orally that the 1913 note had not been overlooked and that there had been no change of mind, but that it was not considered that the note involved the admission which he suggested.
- W 3237/23/50  
of 1934.
367. By this time the search undertaken by the Commonwealth Government for original contemporary accounts of D'Urville's discoveries had been successful. Among those found was the *Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette* of February 28th 1840. This printed an account of the discovery of Adélie Land in parallel columns in French and English. The English version differed from the French in giving long. 147° West (an obvious misprint) as the eastern limit of the coast discovered, while the French version gave the corresponding figure as long. 142° East, in agreement with D'Urville's charts. This seems to have been the earliest detailed report published, and was probably copied by other Australian newspapers. In doing so, it was natural that they should copy the English version with 147° rather than the French with 142°.
- W 5843/23/50  
of 1934.
368. No further development occurred in connection with the French claim until October 1936, when a member of the French Embassy called at the Foreign Office, and subsequently wrote
- W 6245/23/50  
of 1934.
- W 13106/270/50  
of 1936.

and Norway, were carefully considered, with a view to taking any steps which might be calculated to forestall any hostility to this measure.

### ADÉLIE LAND AND THE SETTLEMENT OF FRENCH CLAIMS

357. The attitude of the French Government had to be considered in connection with the Order in Council of 1933 because of the French claim to Adélie Land, based on the discovery and formal taking of possession by Commandant Dumont D'Urville (paragraph 348).

358. In 1911, in connection with an application for a British whaling licence, the French Government were asked whether they claimed "that portion of the Antarctic Continent known as Wilkes Land." In 1912 the French Government replied that Commandant D'Urville had taken possession of the part of the Continent known as "Wilkes Land or Adélie Land" in the name of France, and referred to various publications on the subject. They added that they did not intend to renounce their rights. In 1913, when it was proposed to give the name "King George V Land" to some of the territory discovered by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, it was thought advisable to inform the French Government in advance, and to assure them that the district to be named would not touch on the French claim. Unfortunately, Sir F. Bertie's note of March 29th 1913 mentioned that His Majesty's Government understood the extent of the land named by Commandant D'Urville to have been about 150 miles, lying between lats. 66° and 67° S. and longs. 136° and 147° E. Although the French Government had not themselves put forward a claim to this extent of territory, they naturally did not contradict this statement, and they did not, in fact, reply to the note. This description was taken from a contemporary account in the *Hobart Town Review*. D'Urville's own charts, however, which up to 1922 were still issued by the French Ministry of Marine, represented the extreme limits of the coast discovered by him as between longs. 136° 30' E. and 142° E., an extent of about 120 miles.

359. In 1924 the French Government took steps to assert their claim to Adélie Land by the issue of four formal Decrees which reserved for Frenchmen all fishing, sealing and mining rights and provided for administration under the Government General of Madagascar. In 1926 a further Decree appointed a Keeper of Game and Fisheries and placed Adélie Land under the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace at Tuléar in south-west Madagascar. None of these Decrees, however, defined the limits of the area claimed, although one of them left the limits blank, with a note that they would be indicated in a Decree to be issued subsequently by the Ministry of Colonies.

360. The Committee on British Policy in the Antarctic, appointed by the Imperial Conference of 1926, concluded that, within the limits indicated on D'Urville's own charts, the French claim was indisputable, although this region had not been visited by any Frenchman since 1840. It seemed impossible to frame any criterion of validity which would restrict the French claim, while not affecting those of His Majesty's Governments. An attempt to restrict territorial claims to actual extent of coast sighted by each particular discoverer would considerably weaken the British claim to Graham Land, where the greater part of the coast had been discovered by explorers of other nations. The Committee therefore took the view that a French enclave in the Australian sector was inevitable. It was, however, thought undesirable either to approach the French Government with a view to obtaining an exact definition of the limits of Adélie Land, or to assign limits to it without approaching them. The best course was thought to be in practice to treat Adélie Land as not extending beyond longs. 136° 30' E. and 142° E., but as having, within those limits, the same extension to the South Pole as the British areas.

Secret E 101  
of 1926.

*Journal Officiel*,  
March 29th 1924  
p. 3001 ;  
April 2nd 1924,  
p. 3150 ;  
Nov. 27th 1924,  
p. 10452 ;  
Jan. 3rd 1925,  
p. 211.

*Journal Officiel*,  
*de Madagascar*,  
Sept. 18th 1926.

Secret E(37) 6  
of 1937.



of this position.) On January 13th a landing had been made on Proclamation Island (lat.  $65^{\circ} 50' S.$ , long.  $53^{\circ} 39' E.$ ), the flag was hoisted and British sovereignty declared over all the regions between longs.  $73^{\circ} E.$  and  $47^{\circ} E.$  and south of lat.  $65^{\circ} S.$  (see p. 162). On January 25th Sir Douglas Mawson flew over the continental ice-slopes near Proclamation Island, dropped a flag and proclaimed British sovereignty over the same area, plus the land between longs.  $47^{\circ} E.$  and  $45^{\circ} E.$ , which had been sighted in the meantime (see p. 163). On January 27th the expedition left the Antarctic for Australia.

354. In the season 1930-31 the *Discovery* sailed towards Cape Denison, in about long.  $142^{\circ} 50' E.$ , in King George V Land, and worked westwards, charting the coastline, as opportunity offered, to a point in about lat.  $67^{\circ} 30' S.$ , long.  $70^{\circ} 43' E.$ , thus linking up with the discoveries of the previous season. The greater part of the coastline from long.  $160^{\circ} E.$  (the western boundary of the Ross Dependency) to the eastern limit of Adélie Land had already been charted by British explorers, and Sir Douglas Mawson accordingly took formal possession of it in the name of the King by a Proclamation at Cape Denison on January 5th 1931 (see p. 163). The ship then proceeded west along the coast of Adélie Land, adding further details to existing charts. To the west of Adélie Land new land was discovered adjoining the stretch sighted in 1912 by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition and named by them Wilkes Land. On January 15th and 16th flights were made and what appeared to be land was observed at a distance and named Sabrina Coast, thus giving some confirmation to the "appearance of land" reported in this position by John Balleny in 1839. During a flight on January 27th the existence of Knox Land (now called Knox Coast), reported by Charles Wilkes in 1840, was confirmed. On the following day Bowman Island was discovered in lat.  $64^{\circ} 46' S.$ , long.  $103^{\circ} 46' E.$  It had been intended to chart the coast of Queen Mary Land, which had been discovered by the Australasian Antarctic Expedition in 1912, but storms and fog made approach difficult. Since possession had been taken of that region in 1912 (paragraph 350) it was decided to save time and fuel by pressing on to the west. Land seen to the south during a flight in about lat.  $66^{\circ} 29' S.$ , long.  $76^{\circ} 15' E.$  on February 9th was named Princess Elizabeth Land. (In 1936 this was shown by R.R.S. *William Scoresby* to be shelf-ice; Princess Elizabeth Land must lie considerably further south.) In about long.  $72^{\circ} E.$  the *Discovery* rejoined her course of the first season, and this time the coastline of Mac-Robertson Land was charted in greater detail. On February 13th and 18th British sovereignty was proclaimed over the area from the western boundary of Adélie Land to long  $45^{\circ} E.$  (see p. 164).

355. The expedition having accomplished the second of the three stages envisaged by the 1926 Conference, the third and final step, the issue of a formal document annexing the area and making provision for its government, came under consideration. The phrase "annexing the area" was not thought to have been intended in its technical sense, as this would have been inconsistent with the previous assertion of title. It had always been contemplated that the area should be administered by His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia. The Australian Antarctic Territory was therefore established by an Order in Council of February 7th 1933, placing under the authority of the Commonwealth "all the islands and territories other than Adélie Land which are situated south of the 60th degree of South Latitude and lying between the 160th degree of East Longitude and the 45th degree of East Longitude." The Order came into force with a Proclamation on August 24th 1936, after the passage of the Australian Antarctic Acceptance Act on June 13th 1933. This Act gave power to the Governor-General to make ordinances for the government of the territory, subject to the approval of both Houses of Parliament.

356. Before the Order in Council was made, the probable reactions of the foreign countries most likely to be concerned, namely, France

Secret E.(37) 6  
of 1937.

*London Gazette*,  
Feb. 14th 1933;  
*Commonwealth  
of Australia  
Gazette*,  
Mar. 16th 1933;  
*British and  
Foreign State  
Papers*, 1934,  
Vol. 137, 1939,  
pp. 754-55.

*British and  
Foreign State  
Papers*, 1933,  
Vol. 136, 1938,  
p. 293.

W 8471/209/50  
of 1933.

Scott's expedition of 1910-13 added to knowledge of the Prince Albert Mountains and the Royal Society Range, whose western fringes lie within the Australian boundary. In 1911 Lieutenant H. Pennell discovered Oates Land.

350. The Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, under Sir Douglas Mawson, had its main base at Cape Denison in King George V Land, while a subsidiary party, under Frank Wild, wintered on the Shackleton Ice Shelf in Queen Mary Land, 1,200 miles to the west. This expedition was the only one which has yet wintered on land in the Australian Antarctic Territory. By sledge journey and by ship a length of over 700 miles of new coastline was charted, and in addition some 250 miles of previously sighted coast (including that of Adélie Land) was further examined. The interior ice plateau was investigated in several localities, one party penetrating 250 miles inland. Important shelf-ice formations were discovered, and their coastline charted, and an extensive scientific programme resulted in a great accumulation of valuable information. King George V and Queen Mary Lands were named with the permission of their Majesties. Sir Douglas Mawson raised the Union Jack and took possession for the Crown at seven localities (see pp. 160-161). In 1914 His Majesty's Government were, however, unwilling to respond to his suggestion that these territories should be formally annexed. During the war and the Peace Conference he endeavoured to persuade the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, to take up the matter. The latter was sympathetic, but no action was taken until 1926.

W 2049/98/50  
of 1929.

351. The Imperial Conference of 1926 recommended that the more important regions in the Antarctic outside the Ross Dependency and the Falkland Islands Dependencies should be brought under control in three stages: (1) a public assertion of British title; (2) a formal taking possession on the spot by an officer authorised for the purpose, and (3) the issue of Letters Patent annexing the area and making provision for its government. The first stage was accomplished by the inclusion of a list of the areas in question in the published *Summary of Proceedings* of the 1926 Conference (paragraph 93). These areas included the north-eastern part of Coats Land, Enderby Land, Kemp Land, Queen Mary Land, "Wilkes Land," King George V Land, and Oates Land. Of these, it is to be noted that the name "Wilkes Land" was used in a restricted sense to cover only the coastline between longs. 131° E. and 135° 30' E., which had been discovered and charted by Sir Douglas Mawson in 1912 (see p. 196).

Secret E(37) 6  
of 1937.

352. The second stage, necessitating the despatch of an expedition to the Antarctic, was opened in 1929, when the British Australian and New Zealand Antarctic Expedition (B.A.N.Z.A.R.E.), under the command of Sir Douglas Mawson, was sent south in the *Discovery*. Its object was to operate principally in the sector between the Ross Sea and Enderby Land (the proposed Australian sector), with a view to completing the geographical and other scientific work previously carried out in this sector by British explorers and so to lead up to the final establishment of British title to the whole sector, with the exception of the French territory of Adélie Land. Sir Douglas Mawson was empowered to take possession of all the areas to which British title had been asserted at the Imperial Conference and of any new territory that might be discovered.

W 9078/98/50  
of 1929.  
D. Mawson:  
*Geog. Review*,  
Vol. 20, No. 4,  
1930, pp. 535-54  
*Geog. Journal*,  
Vol. 80, No. 2,  
pp. 97-131;  
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353. In the season 1929-30 the conditions were unfavourable for exploration, but most of the coastline of the Antarctic continent was charted or roughly located between longs. 73° E. and 45° E. It was during this work that, on January 14th 1930, the *Discovery* met the Norwegian exploring ship *Norvegia* in about long. 47° E. Sir Douglas Mawson persuaded Captain Riiser-Larsen to confine his activities to the area west of long. 45° E. (the limit provisionally selected for the Australian Antarctic Territory) if the *Discovery* kept to the east of that meridian. On January 5th land had been sighted in lat. 66° 35' S., long. 62° E., and named Mac-Robertson Land. (It was later found that Mac-Robertson Land lies about 60 miles south

W 9588/29/50  
of 1931.

W 1262/209/50  
of 1933.