

Indian Affairs  
School Files


(RG 10, Volume 6205)

File 468-1, part 1

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School -  
(Methodist) - General Administration. 1894 -  
1919.

File 468-1, part 2

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School  
(United Church) - General Administration. 1920 -  
1934.

 File 468-1, part 3

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School  
(United Church) - General Administration. 1936 -  
1947.

File 468-1, part 4

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School and  
others - General Administration - Supplies -  
Accounts (Census Oneida Reserve 1946). 1946 -  
1948.

File 468-3, part 1

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School -  
Teacher's Salaries. 1946 - 1947.

File 468-5, part 1

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School -  
Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts -  
General Administration - School Establishment.  
1896 - 1907.

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# Justice Kingstone Favors Retention Grand Jury System

Commends Middlesex Body on  
Its Fine Report On  
Institutions

DID LOT OF HARD WORK

Mount Elgin School Visited  
First Time Since Its Con-  
struction

Visiting the Mount Elgin Indian Residential School at Muncey, the grand jury at the spring assizes found it was the first grand jury that ever visited the school which was built many years ago, was closed for a time, then re-opened in 1867. Recommendations that the department of Indian affairs be requested to make necessary improvements were contained in the grand jury's report presented to Justice Kingstone at the assizes Monday. In addition, a number of other recommendations are made.

Justice Kingstone, in receiving the report congratulated the grand jury on the thoroughness of its work. "It shows you did a good deal of hard work," he said. He also commented that the splendid work done by the grand jury "emphasizes the importance and wisdom of retaining our grand jury system."

#### Report of Jury

The report, which was read by Edwin Smith, secretary of the jury and signed by Archie C. Ferguson, foreman, reads in part as follows:

"On Wednesday, March the 11th, we visited the county gaol and court house. We were received by Governor Charles Mitchell and conducted through the gaol where we found everything to be exceptionally clean, the walls, clothing and all equipment were free from vermin of any kind. The food was found to be fresh and of good quality.

"We found confined in the gaol 45 prisoners two of whom were females. We received no complaints as to their treatment or food.

#### VISIT TO MUNCEY

"On Wednesday afternoon, March the 11th, we visited the Mt. Elgin Indian residential school at the Muncey Reserve. This was the first visit by any grand jury to this institution. This school, built many years ago, closed but re-opened in 1867, occupies a tract of land consisting of 290 acres and with a further rental of 750 acres. We were introduced to the principal, Rev. O. B. Strapp, by Dr. T. H. McLeod, resident physician and the Indian agent, Mr. A. D. Moore. This school teaches academic, vocational and dairy work. Their registration is 81 girls and 75 boys, aged from 11 to 17 years. Much credit is due the federal government in maintaining an institution of this nature. We would recommend that the department of Indian affairs at Ottawa be requested to supply this institution with adequate lavatory accommodation, also an emergency hospital, capable of taking care of both sexes, with accommodation for six or eight patients. The heating system is at present inefficient, and could be improved at least 10 per cent. by the installation of a vacuum pump or air eliminator on the re-

## PHEASANT CRASHES THROUGH WINDSHIELD

Canadian Press Despatch  
Toronto, March 16.—Henry Irving related today how he unexpectedly captured a pheasant and as quickly released it. Irving was driving on the Dundas highway near Trafalgar when the pheasant charged through the windshield. Irving found himself with his lap full of glass and the bird beside him. He thrust the bird out of the door and shook himself free of glass. His only injury was a small nick on the wrist.

## BOY, 3, WAS LOST IN DUST STORM

Associated Press Despatch  
Lamar, Colo., March 16.—Frost-ripped toes and tiny sand burr wounds were all that bothered three-year-old Stevie Benson tonight after almost 24 hours spent in southern Colorado's worst dust storm of the years.

For him safe in a hospital bed here, the removal of the prickly sand burrs was much worse than his night in the dust storm.

"I slept out," announced Stevie today as he walked into the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Fetters, six miles from his home. "I'm hungry."

Behind him 1,000 persons were searching in the wake of a "black roller" dust cloud that swept across the ranch country, turning daylight to darkness as Stevie wandered away yesterday.

Dust covered his body and his tiny feet bristled with burrs. He held his shoes in his hand.

While he was eating with Mr. and Mrs. Fetters, L. E. Welker and W. A. Gradhouse, members of a searching party, stopped at the house for water.

"Why, that's the boy we're hunting," they exclaimed.

ray equipment, and much larger sections for the eye, ear, nose, throat and maternity departments.

#### Manufactures Splints

"The manufacturing of splints upon the premises deserves special mention and we are informed that Victoria Hospital is one of the very few carrying on this class of work.

"We are pleased to see that a citizen of London was interested in the children's section by placing therein a small but adequate swimming pool, which permits those requiring limb exercise to secure it while still patients.

"There are 364 resident patients of which 59 are children.

"Friday afternoon, we visited the Ontario Hospital. We met Dr. G. H.



gate

7-0-11

ORIGINAL COPY  
112-147

Ottawa, November 9, 1942.

Memorandum:

DOCTOR MCGILL

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X

CARADOC:

X

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RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL:

X

EX'D.

X

X

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X

The residential school on this reserve, known as the Mount Algin Institute, is one of the oldest residential schools, if not the oldest, in the province of Ontario. It was built in the year 1849, probably by the "Methodist" church of Canada, and officially opened in 1851. It is now the only residential school operated by the Government in cooperation with the United Church in the province of Ontario. An enrolment of 150 pupils is allowed at this school and per capita grant is at the rate of \$160. The cost of operation per pupil, according to the last audit statement, is \$241.66 per annum.

The classroom buildings, which are detached from the main building, are the original buildings erected almost a century ago. In addition to the regular classrooms, accommodation is provided on the second floor of this building for certain members of the teaching staff. These residential school buildings are on a mound and subject very much to erosion. This is particularly true of the classroom, one of which might collapse at any time. Mr Dudley had this particular gable strengthened with four or five square timbers. This rendered the wall reasonably safe for a time, but the wall above and below these supports shows signs of bulging and disintegration. The main building was rebuilt in 1895, probably by the "Methodist" Church, with a contribution from the Government. The records here indicate that from 1896 to 1911 and 1912 \$21,000 of government funds have been spent on this school and \$11,600 from band funds. In 1912 and 1913 a new addition was built to the main building at a cost to the Government of \$17,260.00. This main building represents a style of architecture that has long since been abandoned. The ceilings are at least 12 feet high and the cost of heating from year to year must be enormous. However, the building is of brick construction and from the outside presents a somewhat imposing appearance, but inside it is one of the most dilapidated structures that I have ever inspected.

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At the time of my visit the plumbing in the boys' wash-room was in a faulty state of repair, with the result that the wash bowl were full of filthy water and the floor of the wash-room in a filthy condition. The odors in the wash-room and indeed throughout the building were so offensive that I could scarcely endure them. Certain parts of this building are literally alive with cockroaches - this applies particularly to the kitchen. The treads I noticed on the stairway were literally worn away until they are no longer safe, if this were not a government-operated institution, I feel confident it would be closed by the municipal health authorities. However, when I later discussed the state of this school with Dr. Cochrane, he expressed the opinion that it was a model of sanitary perfection when compared with the United Church school at Round Lake, Saskatchewan. I must state, though, in fairness to all parties concerned, that this school reflects no credit on either the Department of the United Church of Canada. In my judgment, it should be immediately closed or rebuilt. I consider the principal, the Reverend Mr. Strapp, a good man and a man with a very practical turn of mind. He has experienced the utmost difficulty this year in securing pupils, particularly senior pupils. He had at the time of my visit 120 pupils on the roll and is worried almost to the point of collapse by the financial outlook for the school. The school, he assured me, simply cannot continue to operate with the present allowance. It would appear as Indians become economically better off they display a tendency to keep their children at home and send them to the day schools rather than to the residential school. This may be a rather encouraging tendency but is one that makes it exceedingly difficult for our schools to operate until certain adjustments have been effected, I estimate that it would require the sum of \$200,000 to rebuild and furnish the Mount Elgin School with accommodation for 150 to 175 pupils

In contrast to the school building, the farm operated in connection with this school is a model of efficiency. Mr. Strapp has one of the best pure bred Holstein dairy herds in southwestern Ontario. He has in addition at this time 70 pigs of the bacon type, and has one of the best Yorkshire boars in the province. He has also a good poultry house, well stocked with poultry and his farm buildings are all that one might desire, I am disposed to think that we should cease to operate this residential school and that the place it occupies should be taken by a four-room classroom building, in which we would make provision for continuation classes and vocational instruction. This would enable us to take the

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pupils from the day schools at Grades 7 and 8 and give them advanced courses in academic subjects in agriculture or auto mechanic, carpentry, etc., and the girls, courses in home-making, domestic science, dressmaking, etc. The principal of this school should, in addition to his duties at the school be made supervisor or inspector of all the schools on the reserve. This would enable us to have an almost ideal experimental educational unit. In view of the fact that this school has been operated for a century by the United Church, we might have to nominate as the principal of the school a United Church clergyman. Such a clergyman, if appointed, however, should be a fully qualified teacher with training in vocational subjects, and in agriculture. It has occurred to me that if the New England Company withdraw their support from the Bratford school and transfer the property to the Department, we might well consider the advisability of appointing a fully qualified teacher as principal of this United Church and Anglican children, particularly orphans, could be sent from the whole of southwestern Ontario.

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R.A. Hoey,  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

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