


Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6206)

 File 468-5, part 2

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial
School - School Establishment - Building
maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Plans.
1908 - 1912.

File 468-5, part 3

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial
School - Building maintenance - Supplies
- Accounts - General Administration -
Plans. 1912 - 1918.

File 468-5, part 4

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial
School - Building maintenance - Supplies
- Accounts - General Administration.
1919 - 1923.

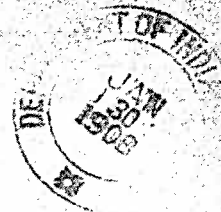
File 468-5, part 5

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial
School - Building maintenance - Supplies
- Accounts - General Administration.
1923 - 1927.

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PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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155001-3
Department of Indian Affairs, 322324



Ottawa, 190

File

John Paul
SET FIRE TO THE INSTITUTE.
 Indian Boy at Muncy Took This Step
 in Escap. *Jan 25 1908*
 St. Thomas, Ont., Jan. 27.—John Paul, an Indian, aged 18 years, is under arrest on a charge of attempting to burn down the Mount Elgin Indian Institute, at Muncy. It was only due to the strenuous work of the inmates and officials of the place that the whole place is not now a heap of ashes.
 As a reason for so doing, he said he believed he would not have to stay at the institute if the buildings were burned.

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PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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Ottawa, July 6, 1908.

Rev. Sir:

I have ~~thank~~ acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 29th ult., advising the Department that the kitchen at the Mt. Elgin Institute was set on fire by Letitia Beaver, of the Almarick band, who says that Winnifred Fisher told her to do so, and asking for instructions.

In reply I beg to say that you ~~should~~ will be advised as to what action to take in this matter later on.

Handwritten signature and initials

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. MOLEAN

Secretary.

Rev. T. T. George,
Principal,
Mt. Elgin Institute,
Gunnock, Ont.

REPORT OF THE MOUNT ELGIN INSTITUTE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1911.



BUILDINGS.

The main building is kept neat and clean. Considerable furnishings have been put in and some improvements made, the most important being new ranges for the kitchens, some good furniture and the installation of an electric light plant, which furnishes light for the main buildings, cottages, laundry, stables and barns. The light plant was put in by the Government at a cost of about \$2,400, also \$500 for the material in a new hen house.

CLASS ROOMS.

The half day system is carried out for most of the older scholars, while many of the younger attend the class rooms all day.

The teachers are doing good work and up-to-date methods are in vogue, especially in the senior rooms, where a class of nine are in preparation for the Entrance examinations in July.

LIVE STOCK.

There are at present 198 head of cattle, 31 horses, and 74 pigs, all looking well for this season of the year. 70 cattle, 10 horses and 40 pigs, and a total increase of about \$6,000 in the value of the live stock have been added since July, 1909.

CHILDREN AND STAFF.

The health of all has been very good, the doctor's bill and drug account being only \$35 for the past year and nine months.

The conduct of the pupils has been worthy of praise, and they have greatly assisted the Principal and his staff to create a home-like atmosphere about the entire Institution. There are 102 children in attendance.

The staff and salaries paid are as follows:-

Principal,	Rev. S. A. McVitty,	\$1,000
Teacher,	Mr. J. R. Littleproud,	480
Stockman,	Mr. B. Bentley,	400
Janitor and		
Gardener,	Mr. C. Willisie,	350
Carpenter,	Mr. J. Kapayo,	525
Farmer,	Mr. Geo. Hill,	450
Matron,	Miss L. McKinley,	300
Jr. Teacher,	Miss M. McLachlin,	300
Cook,	Miss Annie Stever,	240
Cook,	Miss J. Penny,	240
		<u>\$4,265</u>

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The business of the Institute has been well conducted. All accounts have been settled monthly on a cash basis, goods have been purchased at a fair market value and the cattle and products of the farm sold at a fair market price. The management of the milk cows is worthy of mention. The Institute has been kept in meat, butter and milk and the cream sold has averaged over \$200 a month. The profits on the sale of the live stock have been good. The Principal has returned to the Mission Rooms the \$500 voted him by the Board for cattle in 1909, all accounts are paid up to date, and there is a balance of \$139.80 in the bank.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1911.

	<u>Receipts.</u>	<u>Disbursements.</u>
Cash on hand, April 1, 1910,	\$1,450.21	
Missionary Society,	10,005.00	
Sale of Cattle,	5,222.85	
" " horses,	2,117.50	
" " hogs,	1,474.53	
" " cream,	2,285.08	
" from Farm and Garden,	1,311.56	
" of Sundries,	660.47	
Annuities,	126.65	
Rent from Indians,	500.00	
Salaries,		\$4,068.09
Clothing,		1,159.65
Food,		1,957.66
Fuel and Light,		753.24
Building and Repairs,		180.71
House Equipment,		1,751.96
Farm & Garden stock,		12,881.39
Transport, freight, etc.		123.26
Extra labor,		226.10
Miscellaneous,		909.90
Balance in Bank, March 1911,		159.50
	<u>\$25,151.65</u>	<u>\$25,151.65</u>

THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THIS INSTITUTE.

I paid a visit to Ottawa and discussed the basis of a new agreement with the Deputy Minister and the Superintendent of the Education Department. Two propositions were under consideration:-

1. The Church to make certain needed repairs to bring the school into Class "A". This would involve an outlay of about \$5,000; *also to keep the plant in repair from year to year. This would involve about \$1,000 a year, and the Government would give a grant of \$100 per pupil for 100 pupils.*
2. The Government to make all needed repairs and in so doing provide accommodation for 125 pupils, and keep the entire plant in repair; also pay the rents, which have averaged \$900 per year for the last seven years, and give the management \$80 per pupil

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up to the number of 125.

It was arranged by the Department that Mr. Scott should meet me at Muncney and decide on the proposition we would accept.

The second proposal was accepted and the contract will be made out by the Department. This, with good management, will place the Institution on a self-sustaining basis.

The following are the needed repairs to place the school in Class "A":-

1. Fire Escapes - Pole.
2. The closets in the four dormitories to be set in cement and enclosures made.
3. A Boys Building - to provide class rooms, boys' recreation room - boys' wash room, bath-tubs and shower baths, and lavatory.
4. More bathing and washing accommodation for the girls.
5. Steam plant to supply heat for all the buildings and necessary power.

All of which is respectfully submitted.


T Ferris

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File 468-5, part 5

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Mt. Elgin Industrial Institute

422465

S. R. McVitty, Principal

Muncey, Ont. March 21st. 1913,

The Secretary,
Department of Ind. Affairs,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir :-

Following our conversation of a few days ago, I am submitting to the Department receipted accounts for some necessary expenditure, not officially authorised, but absolutely necessary.

We are doing all in our power to raise the School in every respect to the highest standard. We are so near London and St. Thomas, and near the main road for tourists that all through the summer we have a great crowd of visitors, and especially Americans, that in justice to all concerned we feel things must be kept up. We are now engaged painting the barns and out buildings and the Missionary Society has given permission to put in real good furniture. May I suggest that if the Department will pay for material, we will do all the work, and if necessary pay for skilled labour. Do the best you can for us, we are doing our best to help ourselves.

I am, Dear Sir,

Respectfully Yours,

S. R. McVitty

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Alt. Elgin Industrial Institute



No. 01/5

S. R. McVitty, Principal

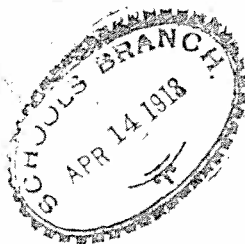
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Muncey, Ont. April 10th. 1912

*Put by
for present*

*Allen
Sey*

The Secretary,
Dep. of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.



Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of the 3rd. inst., permit me to say,

1. The work was absolutely necessary. Practically nothing had been done to the Principal's apartments for years.
2. My wife intended having a few friends visit her in the Spring, and wanted her house at least decent. She has, since coming here, served this school in almost every capacity, from matron to cook, as necessity demanded, and without a cent of remuneration.
3. The carpenters were on the ground, they had the flooring left over and offered it at mill prices laid down here. Mr. Brown, who has done practically all the painting, and decorating for years, was about to move to Detroit, we had barely time to get the work done before he left. It is almost impossible to get really good workmen to come out here when there is so great demand for them in the city.
4. All this came upon me suddenly, and had I waited for permission of the Department, these men would have been gone and we could not have got the work done. I simply did what is often done, in fact what often has to be done, do the thing that is necessary and hope for the best in the matter of having it recognized.

Since the new arrangement was entered into, we have spent hundreds of dollars on small necessary repairs which we

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Mt. Elgin Industrial Institute

S. R. McVitty, Principal

Blunty, Ont. 191

have not reported at all.

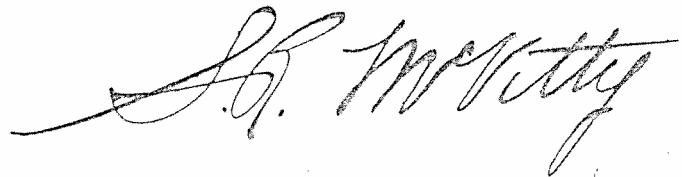
We know our action, in this case was irregular, therefore as a penalty upon ourselves, we offered to pay $\frac{1}{2}$ the account. At the present time we are painting the barns and stables, the paint has cost us about \$150.00, and we are paying good wages to our mechanic to superintend the work. It is a great job and the Department ought to feel proud of the plant here. Neither a Government or Church can afford to be identified with a broken down affair.

Give us a good generous settlement of this matter, paint and all, and we will promise faithfully not to offend again.

Ask Mr. Inspector Mc.Gibbon, who has been here recently, what he thinks of the work being done.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours Respectfully,



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POOR
COPY



Ottawa, July 16, 1913.

Robt Pnd
MEMORANDUM.

Mr. Pedley,-

In accordance with instructions I visited the Mount Elgin Institute on June 26th.

I looked carefully over the new wings on the main building and found everything in good order and am satisfied that a good job has been made. All the buildings and surroundings are in a splendid condition and are a credit to the Department and to the management of the school.

There are a few matters in connection with the Institute which I wish to bring to your attention. Some months ago the Hobbs Hardware Company supplied some glass for the school and the account was forwarded to the Department. In the meantime the firm drew at sight on the Principal and he honoured the draft. When the cheque was drawn by the Department it was sent to the firm and returned by them, but up to the present time Mr. McVitty has not been reimbursed. He should be paid this money as it is a legitimate charge against the Department.

There

Robt Pnd



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There has been considerable correspondence also in regard to the boiler. You will recollect that Mr. McVitty was instructed to purchase a boiler for the laundry from Messrs. George White and Sons. This firm, however, did not have a suitable boiler in stock and advised him to go to Messrs. E. Leonard and Sons. As the matter was extremely urgent Mr. McVitty made the purchase from the last mentioned firm without authority from the Department. Up to the present time the Department has not paid the account and has informed Mr. McVitty that he will have to settle with the firm in question. In connection with this matter and that of certain materials for repairs to the Principal's residence, to which I shall refer later on in this report, I think Mr. McVitty has had a good lesson and that in future he will not make any purchases or incur any expenditure of this kind without the express authority of the Department and I would recommend that the boiler be paid for. There is no question as to the reasonableness of the price.

Mr. McVitty also incurred an expenditure of some \$600.00 in flooring, painting and papering the Principal's residence and flooring the officers' dining room, and painting the barns and stables. These rooms were floored in soft wood before and the oak flooring put in by the Principal has added greatly to their appearance and will last for years. There is no doubt that the

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3.

the repairs made by Mr. McVitty were quite necessary, but he again made the mistake of doing this work without getting authority.

The painting of the stables so far as it has been done has added very greatly to their appearance and will also be a protection against the weather.

I may add that the Methodist Missionary Society spent approximately \$1600.00 in new furnishings for the Principal's residence and it was quite natural, therefore, that the general appearance of the rooms should be in keeping with the furniture.

I would recommend also that the accounts in connection with the residence be paid and also for the material for the painting of the barns.

I was very much ~~impressed~~ ^{impressed} with the great improvement in the management of this school since Mr. McVitty took charge. There is no doubt that he is an able manager and performing a useful work for the Department in the education of the Indian children attending the Institute. Their farm is one of the best in the province and, as I said before, the buildings and surroundings generally are a credit to all concerned.



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1 ~~Admitted~~
2 Acct. Muncy
Mr Ogilvie
Please see receipt collected

Ottawa, October 16th, 1913.

With cheques.

Revd. Sir,-

With reference to previous correspondence regard-
ing work on the buildings at the Mount Elgin Industrial
Institute, I beg to transmit herewith cheques Nos. 1646, 1647,
and 1648 in payment of vouchers which you submitted. Cheque
1646 is in payment of vouchers, which amount ^{is} respectfully
to \$82.35 and \$462.70, which were paid by the Mount Elgin
Institute.

It is desired that you will return to the Depart-
ment for payment Messrs. Leonard & Sons' account and also
the account for painting the stable in connection with
the Institution.

[Handwritten signatures]



YOUR obedient servant,

[Handwritten signature]
S. STEWART

Asst. Secretary.

Rev. S. E. McVitty,
Principal,
Mount Elgin Institute,
Muncy, Ont.

Ottawa, June 1, 1915.

Rev. Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 31st ultimo, reporting the fire which occurred at the Mount Elgin Institute. The telegram reads as follows:-

"Our entire barns and contents destroyed by fire
"please notify insurance Co and send up a man and
"policies to meet their appraiser no one hurt."

In reply, I beg to say that the Department is writing the Indian Agent, Mr. H. Janes, and also communicating with Mr. McIntyre of St. Thomas and Mr. Trueman of Strathroy, Insurance Agents who placed risks on the buildings. Arrangements are being made to have Mr. Janes and the Insurance Agents meet at the institute on Wednesday, June 9th, in order that an equitable adjustment may be made with regard to payment for the damaged caused by fire to the building;

Your obedient servant,

J. D. McLeser

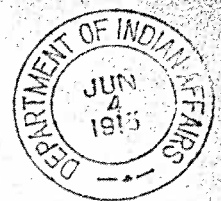
Assistant Deputy and Secretary.

Rev. S. R. McVitty,
Principal, Mount Elgin Institute,
Muncey, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

15-5001-5

Mt. Elgin Industrial Institute



S. R. McBitty, Principal

DM Schopfer

Muncey, Ont., June 3rd. 1915.

489410

The Secretary,
Dept. of Indian Affairs,
OTTAWA. ONT.

Dear Sir:-

Re our terrible fire of Sunday, permit me to make the following report:-

1. The fire was started by little Isaiah Muskrat letting off a firecracker under a pile of straw. (Some one had given the pupils fire crackers on Friday, at our pic-nic). He had it in a little tin can, and thought he was hiding where he one would see him. I was at home myself, and every officer was right here. We saw the fire inside ten minutes after it started. Hundreds of people, including almost every Indian in the neighbourhood, were with us in a very short time. The utmost we could do was to save a couple of horses, and a few other animals. We lost about twenty-five head in all, including a very valuable horse.

Our greatest effort was to save the annex and main building. We did so by beating the fire back from the woodshed and laundry, both of which were on fire several times.

I never saw men work harder than the Indians did until every bucket of water was exhausted. We also had a

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St. Elgin Industrial Institute

S. R. McWitty, Principal

Huncey, Ont., 191

small chemical engine, which we purchased some time ago. It proved of great service in beating the fire out of the laundry and wood shed roof, and a great pile of wood stored in the yard near the shed.

So great was the danger to the main buildings at times that the consensus of opinion led us to remove a large part of the contents out into the lawn, but, at the most crucial moment the wind veered from the East almost due North, and this, of course threw the flames in the opposite direction, and so our main building, annex, and laundry are practically unharmed, and school is going on as usual.

The children feel very sorry for what has occurred, (I have sought in every way to impress them with the seriousness of it), and were rejoiced to learn this morning that we hope to re-build our barns right away. They love the animals, especially the cows. I was much touched with the pleading of some boys not to sell the cows. They knew them every one by name, and some boys risked their lives in getting a few out of the burning buildings. The greater part of the cows had just come up to the barns for milking, but were not tied up, so they escaped.

Of course all our implements, machinery, and tools, also harness, hay, straw, and about 1000 bus. of grain were destroyed.

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Mt. Elgin Industrial Institute

S. R. McWitty, Principal

Almacey, Ont., 191

way as soon as possible. Our crops will be upon us soon, and, to lose them would almost drive us to the wall.

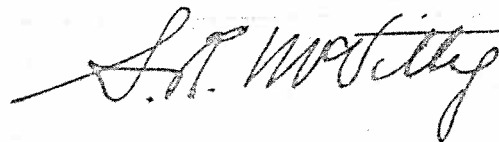
I am writing representatives of several firms, to give us information as to the best kind of barns, probable cost, etc., all of which I will submit to you at the earliest moment.

I made my report to the Department on Wednesday morning. I hope it will clearly show there was no wilful act, or even neglect on the part of anyone in the matter. I called the boys all together on Saturday morning, and had them destroy all the firecrackers I could find, also warned them of the danger. Isaiah had some hidden away. He is a very small boy, and only in school a short time, and I feel sure did not intend any wrong.

Again thanking you

I am, Dear Mr. Scott,

Very sincerely Yours,

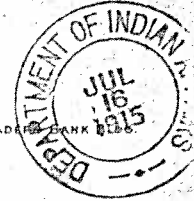


James A. Wickett Limited

PHONE, AG. 1789

CONTRACTORS

803 TRADE MARK



Toronto July 14th. 1915.

Dominion Government
Dep't. Indian Affairs
Ottawa, Ont.

470972

Re new farm and Dairy Bldgs.

Dear Sirs:-

We are informed that you have had plans prepared for a new building and we would like to have the opportunity of figuring on same. We could let you have a tender for General Contract or for the Mason work separate.

If you would let us know where we could secure a set of plans and specifications, or if you would be kind enough to send them to us, we would be pleased to send you our marked check to guarantee the safe return of same.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply, we beg to remain,

Yours truly,

JAMES A. WICKETT LIMITED.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
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CANADA

DEALER IN
Lime, Stone, Cement and Bricks.

RESIDENCE 108 ELGIN ST., PHONE 301
OFFICE 605 TALBOT ST., PHONE 379
BRICK-YARD PHONE 602

OFFICE OF

155001-5

A. E. Ponsford, Limited

Mason, Contractor & Cement Worker.



St. Thomas, Ont., August 5-1915.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of L. D. McLean, written in dark ink.

471588

L. D. McLean, Esq.,
Assistant Deputy and Secretary,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

Received your letter of August 3rd with amended blue prints which I have forwarded to the Metallic Shingle and Siding Company of Preston, who are getting out steel work for Mount Elgin.

I am afraid that the greater portion of this work is already gone through their shops. I have instructed them that if there was anything that they wanted to know in connection with the steel for this building, to take it up with you direct as it will save considerable time.

We are getting along very nicely with work at Mount Elgin,

Yours truly,

A. E. Ponsford, Limited,

per A. E. Ponsford

A. E. P. /M. M.

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