


Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6208)

 File 468-5, part 10

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration - School Establishment. 1945 - 1947.

File 468-5, part 10A

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Application Construction Inspector. 1912 - 1915.

File 468-5, part 10B

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Insurance. 1896 - 1935.

File 468-5, part 11

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration. 1946 - 1947.

File 468-5, part 12

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1946 - 1947.

File 468-5, part 13

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Photos - Plans. 1947 - 1948.

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Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Photo - Plans. 1947 - 1949.

File 468-5, part 15

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1949.

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C o p y

The Mount Elgin Indian Residential
School,
Muncey, Ontario.

Sept. 19th, 1945.

Mr. J. C. Bush,
Scotland,
Ontario.

Dear Mr. Bush:

In reply to your request for more detailed information of this school let me say that Mount Elgin has served the Indian people of Ontario for one hundred years.

We now have in residence 105 children, the Government grant is \$175.00 per capita. Last year we had one hundred students, giving us an income of \$17,500. From this I paid to my staff eleven in all and including my own salary, \$10,000 leaving \$7,500. From this I had to feed, clothe and light and heat one hundred children for ten months, some of them for twelve months. This means that I have to earn the balance on the farm.

In time past when big boys and big girls came to the school this was possible. Today when we have 45 children under ten and only 3 who are sixteen three fifteen and five thirteen it is an impossibility. I have just paid out over six hundred dollars for repairs to one tractor. These wee children have to earn that. There is no other source from which it can come. If I were to publish that fact some one would be hurt.

Just now we need potatoe peelers, bread slicers. But we are told that this is impossible. I want to say that something else is impossible. It is impossible for babies of this age to feed, clothe and wash for themselves. I cannot afford to employ help.

The War Assets people have abundance of the things we need and need desperately. But we cannot get

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them. We have not the money. But the children need just what can be obtained, and without cost, if we could touch the magic spring.

Children have to go out to the barns to the poultry house, out to do chores but I cannot afford proper protection for them.

We need a dental clinic and a throat clinic. Numbers of these children come from back settlements where medical aid is impossible.

The long winter evenings are coming. We have no games equipment. We need a moving picture projector. Just think of having one hundred and twenty children to amuse seven nights a week for ten months of the year. We need equipment.

After I pay salaries I have just 20 cents a day from the grant to feed and clothe and warm and light the children. On top of that we have to pay all farm equipment repairs and transportation.

I hope that this is something in the line of what you needed.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) S. H. Soper

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Ottawa, October 18, 1945.

Dear Senator Taylor:

I desire to refer to that portion of your letter of October 12 in which you request information regarding the Mount Elgin Indian Residential School, as outlined in a letter received by Mr. J. C. Bush from Reverend S. H. Soper, Principal of the School.

The Mount Elgin Residential School is a very old building, having been originally built approximately 75 years ago. In the Fall of 1943 a survey was made of our educational requirements in southwestern Ontario, and at that time the opinion was expressed, by the educationists whom we had engaged, that the Mohawk Institute at Brantford could handle all the Indian children from the reserves of southwestern Ontario requiring institutional care. The committee further recommended that the Mount Elgin Residential School be closed. However, the United Church authorities, under whose auspices this school has always been conducted, expressed a desire to have the school remain in operation for a further period, for the purpose of ascertaining if it was serving a real necessity.

In view of the age of the building, it is impossible to keep it in first-class condition, but the Department has endeavoured to keep up the repairs as far as our funds will permit.

I note that the Principal refers to lack of pupils. In the first place, it has always been our policy to have the Church interested recruit pupils,

Honourable W. H. Taylor,
The Senate,
Ottawa, Ont.

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with the co-operation of the Indian agent. In the second place, as intimated in the first part of this letter, this school is not actually needed at the present time, as the number of children requiring institutional care has decreased.

I can assure you that departmental officials will continue to give sympathetic consideration to the requirements of the Mount Elgin School.

Yours sincerely,

W.J.F. Pratt,
Private Secretary.



PP

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Ottawa, May 29, 1946.

Memorandum:

MR. HOKY.

Inspector Arneil and I visited the Caradoc Agency on May 22 and 23, in connection with the proposed erection of a new four-room day school, to replace the Mount Elgin Indian Residential School.

There are two sites available - one in the village of Muncey and the other on the property formerly occupied by the Mount Elgin Residential School. We favour the latter site because there is an excellent location available and, in addition, we have an opportunity for teaching agricultural subjects to the pupils.

The only difficulty with this site is that the road from Muncey to the new site is reported to be in very bad condition at certain periods of the year. The road is one mile long and it may be expensive to put it in condition to be used at all periods of the year. However, this work will be necessary, as we expect to be driving the children to the new school and, consequently, a year around road will be required.

We interviewed Mr. T. S. Caldwell, District Engineer, Ontario Highways Department, London, with a view to obtaining some assistance from the Provincial Government. Mr. Caldwell promised to inspect the road and let us have an estimate of what it would cost to put it into proper condition. When visiting Mr. Caldwell, we also met Mr. Marshall, Chief Engineer of the Highways Department, and the latter instructed Mr. Caldwell to forward a report to him so that a decision might be made regarding what portion of the cost could be met by the Ontario Highways.

With reference to the erection of the new school, Inspector Arneil obtained the following information:

- (a) Foundation - Graham and Graham, London, Ontario, are prepared to shovel out the excavation in three days' time. They will require 2 weeks' notice before we desire to have the work completed.
- (b) Building Foreman - Charles Ludy, Builder, Rodney, Ont., is available. He has an excellent reputation as a builder and his services can be secured within the next two weeks. He has built many houses and one church at Rodney. He can read blue prints and take full charge. Indian helpers, many of whom are competent carpenters, are available, as well as other Indian labour.
- (c) Material - This can likely be secured within two months' time. It may be necessary to apply to the Timber Controller for priority. Arrangements were made with a qualified man to prepare a list of the materials and forward this to the Department by June 1.

In view of the above information, secured by Mr.

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Arnold, I would appreciate it if we could receive permission to proceed. The sooner we start purchasing the material, the sooner we can commence building.

I might also mention that both Indian Agent Down and the newly appointed farm instructor have had considerable experience in erecting buildings and will be in a position to supervise the erection of the school and keep the Department fully informed.



Philip Phelan,
Chief, Training Division.

Ottawa, June 24, 1946.


Mr. George W. Down, Indian Agent,
M u n c e y, Ontario.

With reference to Mr. Phelan's visit to the Caradoc Agency last week, regarding the proposed new school, I wish to confirm the following arrangements:-

1. You can secure the services of a surveyor to properly lay out the site. It is understood that the services of Mr. John Findlay, St. Thomas, Ontario, are available, and that his services will only be required for a very short time.
 2. Arrangements for the cement mixer and a competent man to operate it are in your hands and you will, no doubt, arrange for this when it is required.
 3. Nails and other hardware needed may be secured when and where available. I understand that these are in short supply at present and will have to be purchased wherever available.
 4. I am informed that in company with Mr. Phelan you interviewed Mr. D. D. Crawford, Delaware, Ontario, with reference to carpenters and brick-layers when needed. I am also informed that an endeavour was made to meet Mr. Ed. Bateman, Mount Brydges, but you did not succeed in meeting him. Both these gentlemen should be consulted before white brick-layers or carpenters are employed, but if they are unable to supply competent tradesmen when the work is ready to proceed, either yourself or the Foreman, Mr. Charles Lady, may make necessary arrangements.
- 5- The gentlemen mentioned in paragraph 4 should also be consulted with a view to having them nominate electrical contractors from whom quotations may be obtained for wiring the new school.

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6. As you are aware, Mr. Charles Ludy, Rodney, Ontario, has been appointed as Foreman and you should feel free to use his services in connection with arrangements for the new school so as to relieve your office. Before the actual construction of the school commences, you should let me know if you have been successful in obtaining the extra clerk in your office. If not, we will have to make other arrangements for handling the paylists.
7. Indian labour should be used as far as possible.
8. For your information, I enclose copies of letters that have been forwarded to the firms whom Mr. Phelan and yourself interviewed.


Bernard F. Neary,
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

Encl.

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OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

SURVEYS AND
ENGINEERING BRANCH

July 4th, 1946.

Dear Mr. Fairlie:

I am forwarding you, under separate cover, two sets of basically standard plans and documents covering the erection by contract of a four classroom type day school. Each set includes the following:

- (a) Blueprints comprising 7 sheets of working drawings
- (b) Contract Agreement
- (c) General Conditions
- (d) Labour Conditions
- (e) General Specifications

I think these plans and documents are along the lines of our discussion last week and I hope this information will meet your requirements.

Schedule "A" Forms covering this type of four classroom Indian day school, were forwarded you in January last by the Director of the Indian Affairs Branch. If additional schools of this type are proposed, Form "A" will be submitted covering them. The same standard plans and documents being forwarded you now will, of course, cover all schools of this type.

It is our understanding that with the information now enclosed you will be able to approve this type of building project for the Indian Affairs Branch in the reserve list of public projects.

Yours very truly,

J.W.Fairlie, Esq.,
Public Projects Branch,
Department of Reconstruction
and Supply,
Ottawa.

Director.

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