



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Ottawa, April 30th, 1929.

Dear Father Belanger, -

I have your letters of the 17th and 25th instant. A cheque for the footballs will be forwarded in the near future and I will endeavour to see what I can do about securing some sponge balls within the next couple of weeks.

Regarding the boy who died, you will note my previous letter in which you were informed that the Department does not pay the funeral expenses of pupils who die at a residential school. You might drop me a personal note about the time you are sending in the June return and, no doubt, I can adjust this in a manner similar to the previous case.

re news of the awards

With special reference to your letter of the 25th, I doubt very much if you would be successful in the plan which you are, apparently, considering. I am aware as an actual fact that such procedure is not followed at any other residential school in Canada. Without going into details, I may say that so many arguments appear against it that I do not believe you would be successful although, of course, one can never tell definitely about these things until they are tried.

// I feel, however, that I can assure you that you need have no fear of any claim being made against you in the event of any change of the staff here. As a matter of fact, the matter is all on your side because ownership

Rev. Chas. Belanger, S.J.,
Principal,
Indian Residential School,
Spanish, Ont.

of

(X) of the buildings is vested in your Order and anything that we give, to all intents and purposes, belongs to you in the future as, if you so desired, you could at any time discontinue Indian work and claim all the buildings. If you are looking for my advice on the matter, I believe that it would be a mistake to change the present "status quo".

With reference to coming to Ottawa, I may say that the month of May will not be very suitable as you know Mrs. Scott died rather suddenly about ten days ago and, as a result, the Deputy Minister, Dr. D. C. Scott, has been absent from the office more or less since that time and, I believe, intends going away for a period. In addition, Mr. Ferrier is leaving next week for Western Canada and will not be back until about the end of May.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Philip Shelton

Rev. Chas. Belanger, S.J.,
Principal,
Indian Residential School,
Spanish, Ont.

(X) Afterwards I discussed this with Dr. Scott Mr. Ferrer & Mr. Philan, writer of this letter. He said that if I had the power to sell, or to rent the buildings to the Dept, it would be, of course, for

preferable from our point of view. He
said that he thought a sale, might be managed
more easily than a rental, being a usual
thing, whereas a rental was unusual.
The purchase price would have to be spread
over several years, payment being made
in installments. W.H.H., A.I.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Chas. Belanger, S.J.,
Principal,
Indian Residential School,
Souris, Sask.

August 30th, 1929.

Dear Mr Ferrier:

This will introduce to you Rev. Henry Smeaton, S.J. who is just back from spending his vacations at the Indian Residential School, Spanish.

You may remember that I spoke to you last autumn about the possibilities for training and for character-development in the introduction among the Indian boys of the principles and practices of the Boy Scout Movement, the latter adapted, of course, to the special needs and circumstances of these Indian boys.

I am very happy to say that the bearer of this letter is an old Scout-Master, and that he has been able to do even more than I had hoped of his two months sojourn when I sent him there. I have every hope that the assistant whom he leaves behind will carry on the good work so happily begun.

I thought that it would interest you to meet Mr Smeaton and so have asked him to call at the Department on his way to Montreal. I have no doubt that Dr Scott will be interested in this experiment. I should like to be able to show it to him after its success has been assured.

With kind regards to Mr Phelan and yourself,

Very sincerely yours,

Mon Révérend Père,

P.C.

Il était convenu à la dernière Réunion des Missionnaires des Missions Indiennes, tenue à Spanish en août, 1929, que la prochaine réunion serait convoquée en 1930; à moins que le Jubilé que l'on prévoyait de l'un de leur nombre, le R.P. Etienne Dufresne, ne donnât lieu à la plupart des Missionnaires de se rencontrer en août 1929, car alors on profiterait de cette rencontre pour tenir la Réunion.

Or voici que le Père Dufresne manifeste sa grande répugnance à un Cinquantenaire, célébré avec éclat, et me supplie de lui laisser célébrer sa joie et sa reconnaissance d'une manière fort et simple et pour ainsi dire en famille, chez lui à Garden River.

Je n'ose insister au risque de contrister ce bon vieux Missionnaire habitué à la vie presque solitaire.

En conséquence, notre Réunion des Missionnaires ne se tiendra qu'au mois d'août, 1930, comme il était convenu l'an dernier.

C'est aussi l'avis unanime des Pères Consultants des Missions, que j'ai consultés par lettres.

J'ai lieu d'espérer que rien ne souffrira de cette remise. Dans quelques jours je dois rencontrer les PP Consultants des Missions, et s'il y a quelque chose qui presse je pourrai l'étudier avec eux.

Bientôt aussi, mon cher Père Missionnaire, j'espère vous voir tous, chacun dans sa mission. Je me propose de faire cette année la Visitation des Missions assez longuement pour pouvoir bien me renseigner et me rendre compte par moi-même de votre genre de ministère à chacun, de vos difficultés spéciales, de vos succès et de vos échecs,

des avantages qui favorisent vos efforts et des obstacles qui les paralysent; des efforts passés, de ce qui reste à faire; de vos espérances aussi bien que de l'oeuvre déjà accompli.

Je vous ferai tenir bientôt mon itinéraire de Visitation que j'arrêterai seulement après que je me serai entend~~u~~ avec les Pères Consultants.

Au revoir à bientôt, mon Révérend et cher Père Missionnaire et que St. Ignace nous benisse tous le jour de sa Fête.

Votre très dévoué en Notre-Seigneur

W. H. Threlton, S. J.

Vancouver, B.C.

October 27th, 1930.

Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Re Indian Residential School, Spanish, Ont.

Dear Sirs:

In view of the very considerable capital outlay in the Residential School at Spanish, Ont., I submit that the per capita grant be considerably increased. The facts of the case are well known to you, and I have confidence that this claim will be at last provided for this present year.

With kind regards I am,

Yours very truly,

Provincial, Jesuit Fathers of Upper
Canada.

Vancouver, October 30th, 1930

Dear Mr Ferrier

I wrote a short official note to be appended to the budget request from Spanish, and now I add a few words of a more personal nature.

I am still out in Vancouver, as you see, but I hope to be back in Toronto well within two weeks. If you had occasion to write, you could address your letter to my Toronto address and it would be forwarded.

It has not been all work out here, for I have had a very enjoyable trip to California, in answer to repeated and urgent requests from St Ignatius College in San Francisco that I should attend their Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was a grand affair, in which the City officially took part, and there were delegates from sixty colleges and Universities, besides distinguished men from all over the Continent. From San Francisco, I went for a few days to Los Angeles. Not a drop of rain in L.A. since April last!

But to come back to Spanish. An increase of ten dollars in the capital per capita allowance will go at least a little way towards making compensation for the capital outlay of our seminary funds in the school at Spanish, on which no interest has ever been paid.

Very kind regards to all in the office. With all best wishes, I remain, dear Mr Ferrier,

Sincerely yours

Spanish, Oct, Dec 3, 1930

Reverend William H. Kingston of

Rev. Father Provincial O.C.

According to directions received from your Reverence I have come here to investigate the water situation. There is no doubt that the two institutions suffer from want of water; their tanks are often empty. Their well being and safety demand a greater supply of water -

Here is their present system: they have each a windmill for ordinary and daily work, when weather permits, and an auxiliary electric pump common to both. They have but one source of water supply, a spring at some distance from the Boys' School, and they claim that it does not supply enough water for daily consumption. In truth they do not get from that spring all the water they need, but apparently, owing to the defective method of pumping the water, they do not get from the spring all the water it could supply. The reservoir in which the water is collected is too small, and the supply pipe is ^{on} too high a level. But since the water comes down by gravity to the windmill, they cannot put this pipe on a lower level, unless they go to the trouble of setting their windmill ^{pump} lower and sinking the supply pipe in accordance. This is one

aspect of the case.

Now I claim that their whole system of pipes is too complicated and faulty. The balance of the spring water not exhausted or pumped by the windmill, goes down to the shore by ^{quantity in} a pipe that leads it in a reservoir built right over ^{on} a former sulphurous spring, where it gets tainted, and is pumped back by a small electric rotary pump, and by the Girls' Windmill, into their tanks of both schools. The water thus travelling a long distance, in a round-about ^(through many curves and angles) way, is subject to much friction, which retards the actions of the pumps, and slows down the delivery of water.

By the way, I may say here that the ^{spring} water, while in the reservoir on the shore, takes the taste of the sulphurous water of the old spring absorbed into the reservoir, and is erroneously said to be tainted by seepage from the river.

Originally, I had given them a double supply of water of spring water by one pipe, and of lake water by another pipe, for ordinary and general purposes respectively, but the water supply from the lake has been cut out; and they now depend upon the spring water alone.

Dr. Jacobi has been experimenting with deep wells; that is, he has sunk a pipe on two different spots north of the Boys' School, and has struck water that keeps the pipes full, but he does not know yet whether the quantity, nor

the quality of the water they would supply - It is also claimed that the tanks in both schools, or some of them are not safe and ought to be renewed -

So far I have endeavored to describe the situation. Coming now to the solution of the problem, I would offer the following suggestions:

1^o Nothing should be done this winter. The season is not propitious for laying out waterworks, and there are too many joints that are to be cleared before taking action intelligently. The condition of things demands improvements but is not so serious as to require immediate action.

2^o Re-trying let them improve their spring water supply - by a larger reservoir, and possibly by leading minor springs into the main ^{reservoir} and the quality of ^{water} they could supply, and if warranted by results, add their supply to that of the spring.

3^o Abandon the present intricate pipe system, and replace it by a simple, straight system, i.e. bringing the electric pump ^{from the shop} to the windmill as auxiliary, and deliver the water directly to the two institutions.

4^o Finally, if it is found that the spring supply cannot be improved, let them revert to the original ^{dual} system, of spring water for drinking, and culinary purposes, and lake water for general purposes. The drinking water could be easily supplied, independently from the lake water, by a Delesperre automatic electric pump, and quite cheaply.

This is my humble opinion on the matter -

Respectfully
J. Laguerre

P.S. - Father Howit seems to be giving satisfaction as a superior - The scolastics prefer his rule to that of J. Pelanjer, and the rest of the community are satisfied - F. Howit himself does not like the job - He would prefer mission work, as would, I think, almost any body - But he might be reconciled with his position, if he were appointed superior for good, and had a free hand - I could not give an opinion on the qualities of his government, but Father Renaud seems to have confidence in him -

J. G.

He claims, rightly, I think, that his missionary career would be spoiled by a long stay here as superior, since he could not improve his imperfect knowledge of the Indian language - I believe the necessities of the Missions require that a well equipped Missionary be not sacrificed here, where any one without ^{a perfect} knowledge of the language may do the work, if otherwise fit -

J. G.



Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Rev. P. Méry S.J.
Saguenay,
Rev. Washer:

North Bay, Ont., Nov. 24th 1932

I do indeed believe that Father Renaud, on account of his age, and condition of health would find it very difficult to look after the mission of Walford.

I have written Father Tourangeau to-day and have notified him that henceforth he is to take charge of the mission of Walford.

He is young and healthy, and should be quite able to say two Masses ~~per~~ which one, on ~~some~~ Sundays of each month, should be celebrated in the Walford Church.

He is also better able to go there to teach the Children Catechism, which I am sure, they must need very much, as there is no Catholic School in that place.

Praying our Lord to grant the health and the assistance to discharge the duties of that important and responsible post, I am,
yours very devotedly, in Christ

D. J. Seveard
Bishop's Secy.

Department of Indian Affairs
Canada

Ottawa, February 22, 1933.

To Church Officers
and
Principals of Indian Residential Schools.

I have to inform you that, owing to a reduction in the Appropriation to be voted for Indian Education for the fiscal year 1933-34, it will be necessary to reduce, by a further 5%, all percapita allowances made to Indian Residential Schools during the fiscal year above mentioned, making a total reduction of 15% for that period.

As the current March quarter allowances will be paid from the new Appropriation, a 15% reduction will be made.

Yours very truly,

Harold W McGill

Deputy Superintendent General.

Copy

Port McNicho 11

July 4th, 1933.

QWERTY

Dear Father Méry,

P.C.

I am on my way to Winnipeg for a brief business trip.

I received your Reverence's letter as well as one from Father Paquin. I am very pleased to have him stay and supervise the work.

There is a young fellow, a first cousin of Father Oscar Labelle who wishes to enter the Society, but is not sufficiently prepared. He made a four-year technical course, and has his papers. Might he not make himself useful at Spanish? His specialty is electricity. He is ready to go at once and spend a year there in exchange for a pittance (Say \$10 a month) and some lessons in Latin. Fr Labelle tells me that the young man is intelligent. He is twenty-three years of age, I think.

You could then allow Brother Jacoby to go to hospital perhaps.

I trust that the vacations are going well. I was in Toronto only from last evening until today noon, and did not have time to write to Mr Dwyer but I told Father Leahy to write and say that he has permission to make his retreat later with the philosophers at Kingston, or perhaps better with the scholars of Loyola, but we can see about that later.

*Condition:
Latin &
fr to report
& prep work
\$5.00 a month
+ board (not
washing)
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in afternoon*



1-1-1.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
OTTAWA

April 19, 1934.

Dear Father Hingston:

Difficulties have arisen in the past, owing to the lack of written records and agreements regarding the Department's responsibility in connection with Indian residential schools.

In order that such difficulties may be avoided as far as possible, I enclose, for your guidance, a memorandum setting forth our future policy. These regulations should not be interpreted as implying any reversal of policy but as an indication of the requirements for agreements made in the future.

Yours very truly,

Encl.

Harold W. Hill

Deputy Superintendent General.

Very Rev. W. H. Hingston, S. J.,
160 Wellesley Crescent,
Toronto 5, Ont.

Oct. 30, 1934.

Dear Father Méry,

P.C.,

I wish to thank you for the status which you sent me the other day. I am getting the Catalogue ready, though it will not be complete till our new Provincial comes. The more I have ready now, the easier it will be to prepare it at the last moment.

Father Provincial asks me to tell you that we are charging the Lower Canadian Province \$8.00 a month for Father Vandriessche. This money will come to us, but will be credited to Spanish. Any other charges such as dentist bills, clothing, hospital, and incidentals, will also be charged to the other Province. So if you would be kind enough to let me know what these are I shall be able to put them down on the bill. This payment for the good Father starts from August 1st, 1934.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely in Xto.,

J. C. Smith Jr.