

INDIAN MISSIONS CONSULTATION. SPANISH, SEPT. 4, 1935.

Father Provincial presided. Father Socius acted as Secretary.

PRESENT: Frs. Méry, J. Richard, Desautels, Couture.

Fr. Provincial explained the purpose of the Consultation, which was two-fold - to give the missionaries an opportunity of explaining their problems that he might acquire a knowledge of the missions and so administer them effectively, and, secondly, to enable him to give Father General a reliable report on the status of the missions.

1. THE SUPPLY OF MISSIONARIES.

Fr. Provincial pointed out that 14 men were preparing for the missions: 4 priests, 2 of whom were tertians, and 10 scholastics, of whom 3 were now in theology. There was also an Odjibway Academy at the house of philosophy in Toronto, which was flourishing. Interest in the missions was so keen that the young men had to be restrained in their fervour rather than encouraged.

Discussion of prospective candidates and their fitness for the missions led to a discussion of some already in the mission field, and especially of Fr. Dwyer.

Fr. Méry: Fr. Dwyer knew the language well enough to hear confessions in it. He had heard this indirectly from the Indians themselves, and quoted an instance from his own experience, when he was giving a mission during which Fr. Dwyer heard the confessions of those making the mission.

Fr. Richard: Fr. Dwyer did not know the Indian language well enough. He had tried to teach it to him, but Fr. Dwyer had not applied himself diligently to its study. The evidence of the Indians was unreliable. They would say of a priest they liked that he knew their language well, even if he did not, and of another priest whom they disliked that he did not know the language, even if in fact he did.

Fr. Desautels: Experience showed that one half of those volunteering for the Indian missions did not persevere. The Viceprovince would be fortunate if 7 out of the 14 candidates actually worked on the missions. He did not think Fr. Dwyer knew the language well enough to be a capable missionary. It was true that the Indians spoke English, and were rather proud of the fact, but they used it for commercial purposes, for buying and selling. For religious and family matters, for things that touched them intimately, they used their own language, and a missionary would have to know that language to reach

their hearts.

Fr. Richard: It was especially in confession that the Indians, usually so silent, spoke at length about themselves; and it was there that the greatest good could be done by giving them advice.

Fr. Couture: Had learnt from experience the necessity of knowing the language. A young priest should not be thrown in the missions alone, but should be placed at first with an older priest, as he himself had started out with Fr. Desautels. The great difficulty was to convince Ours of the necessity of learning the language.

2. LEARNING THE LANGUAGE.

The necessity of knowing the language being taken as proved by the Consultors, the next question was "What in practice is to be done?"

Fr. Méry: There were good opportunities at Spanish for scholastics who were willing to learn the language in their free time.

Fr. Richard: Spanish was not a good place. Wikwemikong would be better. The language was one of verbs, which had to be studied diligently and at length. This could be done at Wikwemikong. Also it was essential to get the right accent, and at Wikwemikong the older missionaries and the Indians themselves would help in the acquirement of this accent.

Fr. Desautels: In philosophy the scholastics should just learn enough to keep their interest alive without interfering with their philosophical studies. In regency they could learn the philology of the language, e.g. in their free time at Spanish, studying and talking to others. Then later as priests they could be sent to Wikwemikong for ministry. In any case, great courage and constancy were needed to learn the language, which was a very difficult one.

Fr. Couture: Not much in favour of Wikwemikong, judging from his own experience. The Indians are too shy and reserved to speak to strangers, and for a young man the place is too lonely. Priests might come back to Spanish after their tertianship to perfect themselves in the language.

In summing up Fr. Provincial said that the most important factor in preparing future missionaries was their spiritual formation. If a man was not ready to mortify himself by a serious study of the language, he would never be of any use on the missions.

3. RELATIONS OF MISSIONS TO INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL.

a. The suggestion of a kindergarten at Spanish.

Fr. Desautels: The project of a kindergarten for both boys and girls from 3 to 10 or 11 years of age, to be managed by the Daughters of Mary at the convent, had been approved by the Department of Indian Affairs. Everything seemed to be ready for its inception, when the project was dropped. Such a school, built to accommodate 25 boys and 25 girls, was really needed, and there was no inconvenience in having the two sexes together in the class-room, even for boys up to the age of 10 or 11. The boys, when finished with the kindergarten, could pass into the school.

Fr. Méry: Was against the kindergarten. It was not absolutely necessary. The training of the boys by the Sisters would be ineffective, for Indian boys even at an early age need to be trained by men. It would be better to make more room at our school than to open a kindergarten at the convent.

Fr. Desautels: More room could be had if Iroquois boys were not accepted at the school. Spanish was the only Indian school in Canada which had pupils of different races. He was against having Iroquois boys in the school.

Fr. Couture: Was against having Iroquois boys in the school. He gave instances from his own experience at Spanish, showing that the Odjibways, though slow and reserved, were more reliable than the seemingly more intelligent Iroquois.

Fr. Méry: The Iroquois gave a tone to the school by their superior intelligence and activity. He was for keeping them there.

b. Admission to the school.

Fr. Méry: The missionaries did not always follow the regulations laid down by the Department for admitting children to the school, with the result that he, as Principal of the school, had got into trouble with the Department. A recent example of this was quoted.

Fr. Desautels: Occasionally last minute arrangements had to be made and the Department notified later. Usually the Department made no trouble in these cases. From his point of view the school accepted too many children from the immediate vicinity, leaving no place for children from the outlying missions, where it was not always possible for children to attend a home school. The ideal would be to have room for all in the home schools, but where this was impossible place should be found for them at Spanish.

4. SHOULD A PROCURATOR MISSIONUM BE APPOINTED?

The Consultors agreed that this was not necessary, but that it would be useful to have someone who could make the missions known and bring in alms and contributions.

5. CANONICAL STATUS OF THE MISSIONS.

Fr. Provincial: Fr. General had explained that our missions were not "missiones proprie dictae", not having been established by the Holy See nor being under Propaganda, but were "opera concredita Societati", The Consultors pointed out that as the churches and residences were built on Reserves, they did not belong to the Society.

Fr. Provincial: Bishop Dignan had asked him to have the Consultors draw up a list of the extraordinary faculties which they thought they would need in their work among the Indians. After discussion it was decided to ask for the following faculties:

1) to marry cousins (impedimentum consanguinitatis); 2) to dispense with banns; 3) to absolve those married outside the Church.

7. SHOULD NEW STATIONS BE OPENED? WHERE?

Frs. Desautels and Couture: Were against opening new stations. It might even be advisable to close some. There was room for new stations, especially in the north in Fr. Couture's region, but at present, with no missionaries available, it would be impossible to open any new stations.

8. PUBLICITY. "JESUIT MISSIONS". HISTORY OF THE MISSIONS.

Fr. Provincial: Would do his best to spread the magazine "Jesuit Missions" as a means of making the missions better known. He hoped that the history of the missions now being written by Frs. Paquin and Desautels would also help to this end.

9. RELATIONS WITH THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT.

The Consultors agreed that relations with the Indian Department were good, and had no complaint to make.

N.B. No. 6 THE PROBLEM OF THE INDIAN MORALLY AND SOCIALLY was omitted from the discussion.

Rev. Paul Méry S.J.
Indian Residential
School
SPANISH, Ont.

The Very Rev. Henry Keane S.J.
Toronto

Sept 13th, 35

Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

Father Artus has to go somewhere and therefore will be welcome here, though I am afraid of having so many men in the house. You will realize it after having read this letter.

The Bishop was most delighted with his visit. He expressed it to me and others effusively. Yesterday he was back from Thornalou and had some business to do with Miss St. James and he came to see me again just to tell me how grateful he was. Within two days Fr. Walsh had our refectory and its ~~staircase~~ cupboard painted in ivory, the floor oiled with English oil, new cups, plates and dishes on the table; at dinner we had flowers on a table gracefully dressed. He found our school a palace for the children. In fact, church, dormitory, the two refectories, recreation hall, were very neat and attractive.

With ^{the bishop's report} and ^{at the} same time we had the auditor's visit. You ^{will} remember that at your last visit I showed you the circular by which we were announced that the Governor in Council by law is required to administer all parliamentary grants etc.....

The conclusion of the auditor's visit is that we ^{are} obliged to keep separate accounts: one for the boys' expenses and the other for the community. v.g. we cannot include our

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clothing, church expenses, dentures^{th.} in the school
account. We have to take it from other sources.
The only solution would be to have a fund
made out of salaries recognized by the
Department. Contributions to the province would
not be accepted. As we have our vows we
could ask the Department to recognize in a
general way the staff salaries. Out of this
fund we will pay the community expenses
and the contributions to the tra. Of course
the food expenses will comprise school and
staff expenses but I have reasons to believe
that the Department will limit the number
of our boarders. By the way let me tell
you that with Father there there will be
seven priests in the house having each his
room. This question of having staff salaries
recognized by the Department is so important
that I don't dare settle it myself with Ottawa.
What should we do if we had to pay the
community expenses out of other sources than the
per capita grant? Do you not think that
such a question should be settled in an interview
with the Indian Department and yourself?
For the time being I transferred \$500⁰⁰ to
the community account from the per capita
grant under the heading: "advanced salaries"
But the amount must be fixed for the
future if we don't want to get into
trouble. If you decided to go to Ottawa
I suggest that you would ask for the
principals, three teachers, one prefect, eight

brothers \$5600. This amount was figured out by Pro. O'Keefe and I think would be sufficient. The three teachers include the two laymen. It would not mean that we give them such salary as given by the Department but simply that such amount ~~should~~ be provided for the staff above. If later they obliged those whom they don't consider necessary for the running of the school to pay their Board would then such amount be sufficient?

I have been interrupted many times and having read my letter I want to make it clear that in the future a very exact account will be demanded of all the school expenses, we have to keep the books in conformity with the other Indian Schools so that the Auditor will verify them easily. All our community expenses cannot be paid directly with the per capita grant. A separate account must be kept which does not concern the Department. In order to have a fund for our community expenses I do not see any other solution than to ask Ottawa to recognize a staff salary.

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I said to Bro. O'Keefe to keep the
accounts for the department as they want
us to do and to keep the community
accounts as requested by you and
therefore at the end of the year to
send you and Rome only the community
accounts. Am I right in this?

Sincerely and respectfully in Christ

Paul Meyer

Rev. Paul Meyers St.
Indian Residential
School
SPANISH, Ont.

The Very Rev. Henry Heam S.J.
Toronto

Sept 18th, 35

Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

You ask me to write to Honora but you will have more satisfactory results if you go to see or write the Oblate Father who represents all the Indian Schools of his order and deals in the name with the Department. The Oblates have some schools on the same basis as ours i.e they own the property and they receive a per capita grant or the government simply employ them.

The auditor Mr. Purthe who is a catholic gave some hints to Bro. O'Keefe of course confidentially and of his own private authority. He said that in the protestant school of Bramford (I think he told me that he had just come from there) the principal has a salary of \$1500⁰⁰ his wife who is a mother has also a salary. The two books had together \$900⁰⁰ the chief I suppose having more than the other. Then the salaries of the teachers (Bro. O'Keefe had no time to see them all on the list shown to him) I suppose \$600⁰⁰ each with their board, a salary also for the boys' master, etc. Mr. Purthe did not think that the government would recognize a chaplain's salary but of course it's

only a private opinion. He thought also that the teachers are supposed to look after the boys, which in protestant institutions sometimes is lightly undertaken. On account of these considerations I think that the amount of Pro. O'Keeffe is rather high. I suggested a staff salary in a general way because our teachers, being two of them bond men, we have no advantage of having a specific salary which would be mainly for our engaged men.

But the venerate Father could give you very good hints about it. Some years ago, Father Guy was the one but he became bishop of Grouard and I don't know who has succeeded him.

Writing to the Rector of the University of Ottawa where Father Guy used to reside and I suppose his successor also you will certainly reach the right man.

Respectfully and sincerely

Paul M. O'Connell

Indian Residential
School
SPANISH, Ont.

The Very Rev. Henry Heame S.J.
Toronto

Sept 24th, 1935

Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

Do you know that the Oblates have at least thirty three Indian Residential Schools? This fact will make you realize what useful information may give you the Father at Ottawa who represents them and deals in their name with the Department.

Miss St. James asks me if you would, as our Provincials did in the past, deal in this matter with the Department. So they are. They independent when they don't need us but anxious to use us when they are in need of help. I told her that I would write to you about it but that she should give me a list of her claims. Then she told me that she would write to her provincial first and that she will have an answer within three days.

Of the seventy nine residential schools we are the only one where girls and boys live in two separate buildings. In fact for the Indian Department there is only one school with two sections of which I am the Principal. The whole per capita grant is sent to me and I divide according to the number of pupils in each section. To be the

principal means that I deal with the department for the admission and discharge of the girls and other things of that kind, would it not be fair if I began to take from the whole per capita grant a salary for the principal?

The boys' retreat is being preached now by Fr. Dillon.

Within a few weeks I shall be able to make my retreat. Do you insist on my making it in another house or is it simply a privilege. I am quite able to make it well here retiring in my bed room and leaving everything to Father Walsh.

I must apologize to Father Smith for not having sent yet the status of the house but I am waiting for Father Arden to distribute the divers duties v.g. when I offered Fr. Dupre to explain the points of meditation to the Priests, "Co' me fatigues" he said and that's all. When he has said it there is no more discussing.

Father Walsh is doing very well, his lectureship has made of him a very good religious.

Respectfully and sincerely
Pauline

L.J.C. & M.I.

English Oblates of Eastern Canada

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION
151 LAURIER AVENUE EAST
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

September 26th 1935

Very Reverend Henry Keane S.J.
160 Wellesley Crescent,
Toronto, Ontario.

Very Reverend and dear Father,

Your letter to Very Reverend Father Scannell has been turned over to me for reply.

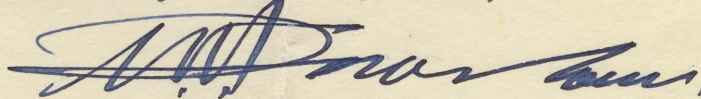
The Salaries for the Staff vary with the work done by each.

May I suggest as the best solution of your problem that you get a copy of the Dominion Government Blue Book which contains a the Auditor General's Report. In this Report he will have incorporated the Reports that he received from the different Schools. In this Report he will have the salaries listed either as pertaining to an individual or taken as a whole group. This will at least give you something to work on.

I am presuming that one of your Fathers is assigned to the School in the capacity of Principal. He would therefore have the right to collect a Principal's salary. If you have any of the Fathers assigned as Teachers or any of the Fathers of Brothers assigned as Disciplinarians they would be entitled to salaries according to the work they do.

I am aware that a letter is very often an unsatisfactory means of conveying information of this type and for this reason I want you to know that if there is anything further I can do to help in this regard I would consider it a privilege to be called upon.

Sincerely in Jesus Christ,



W.V. Doran O.M.I.
Provincial Bursar

English Oblates of Eastern Canada

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION
151 LAURIER AVENUE EAST
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

October 4th.1935

The Reverend Henry Keane S.J.,
160 Wellesley Crescent,
Toronto, Ont.

Very Reverend and dear Father,

Sorry my letter did not give you the help you needed.

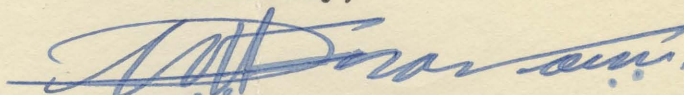
Answering your questions....FIRST It is our custom to devote part of the Per Capita Grant to Staff purposes.SECOND Taking ONE of the Houses as an example our quarterly report from that House shows that during the quarter the Father in charge as Principal of the School took for himself \$300.00 and for TWO Lay Brothers for the quarter \$500.00.

You may be able to convince the Indian Department that they should allow you a further allotment to take care of Staff Salaries BUT I am of the opinion that they expect that ALL the Expenses in connection with the running of a School are to be taken care of through the Per Capita grant.May I suggest that instead of asking for an allotment to cover the Staff you recommend rather that an INCREASE be allowed in your allotment Per Capita so that you may be able to GIVE Staff Salaries.

If I may be allowed to give my opinion of the situation and NOT be QUOTED the present attitude of the Department regarding Finances and Auditing in the Schools is one of those periodic things that occur in Canadian Governmental Circles something somewhat similar to the Spiritual upheaval that takes place on the occasion a good old-fashioned Methodist REVIVAL.They'll get back to NORMAL after a while and do things as WE want them if we only wait for a while.God help ME and US if you QUOTE me or DONT consign this letter to the wastebasket.

I hope that this time I have HELPED you. If not be sure and write me again and if you happen to be in Ottawa we have Dinner at Twelve and Supper at Six and can always find a Bed for such as you.

Sincerely,



W.V. Doran O.M.I., Provincial Bursar

Rev. Paul Méry S.J.

Indian Residential
School

SPANISH, Ont.

The Very Rev. Henry Keane S.J.
Toronto

Sept 29th. 35

Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

You may say to Fr. Smith that he will find all the particulars he may desire in "1934-1935 Auditor General's Report. Part I. Indian Affairs Department. I have 1926-27 report. I don't send it to you because there would remain some doubt about the actual policy.

The reduction of 15% has just been modified to 5% (Circular July 13th, 1935) that means that we receive per boy \$152⁰⁰ per annum. Besides the per capita grant we receive supplementary helps for drugs and medical service, stationary, some repairs etc.

As far as I know there is no Indian Residential School that receives salaries besides the per capita grant. That means that there must be taken from the per capita grant or from their own private funds.

A sure thing is that the Department who was set by Bennett about three years ago half a million dollars will not incur new expenses. However you might have 5% restored and the grant would be as formerly \$160⁰⁰ per annum.

The new policy of the Department consists in this. Up to now the British Columbia and Ontario Residential Schools administered the per capita grant without control save the school's annual financial report. They will

send now an auditor at least annually and the accounts have to be kept separately: The school account and the Community account.

Our present endeavour is to induce the Department to authorize us to allocate a certain part of the grant for the use of the Community. Further we are now trying to see that this amount will be a reasonable one. Failing this authorization we are not entitled officially to retain any of the grant for our own use. We are entitled by custom under the old procedure. But now with new arrangements a definite sum should be fixed. We merely give the title of salaries for that word seems to meet a business man point of view better than any other.

It should be the department business ^{sum} to fix that allocation that we call salaries. I am going to work on it and see what we could reasonably propose for us while keeping the money among ^{us} for the welfare of the children!

Respectfully and sincerely in Christ

Paul Meyer

Principal & assistant	\$ 1500	taken out of the whole per capita grant given for boys and girls; therefore half being paid by the convent	\$ 1500
3 teachers			1800
2 cooks			800
Farmer Instructor			500
{ Dairy man, Gardener, Purveyor Instructor			500
Electrician, Carpenter, etc. Instructor			500
Shoemaker Instructor			500
Infirmarian & Proctor			500
Tailor & Wardrobe			500
			<u>\$ 7100</u>

Therefore $7100 - 750 = \$6350$. i.e. \$750 being
 paid by the convent for the principal
 \$6350 will be taken out of the per
 capita grant for the boys.

Rev. Paul Méry S.J.

Indian Residential
School

SPANISH, Ont.

The Very Rev. Henry Keane S.J.
Toronto

Oct. 2nd, 35

Dear Father Provincial
P.C.

As a rule I know that they consider at the Department that in an Indian School there should be a staff member per ten pupils. I endorse a bit of instruction that they would be willing to recognize. In order to pay these salaries the per capita grant should be increased at least the 5% mentioned in my last letter restored.

Father Arta expects to come next week; he is replacing Father Prilanger.

Respectfully & Sincerely

Paul Méry S.J.

The Ladies have not spoken any more of their claims



No. 36-0-1

ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER

PLEASE WRITE ON ONLY ONE SUBJECT
IN EACH LETTER

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Ottawa, October 25, 1935.

Very Rev. Sir:

With reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I beg to say that the per capita allowance at the Spanish Indian Residential School is \$160. There was a 15% deduction to the end of December, 1934. Ten percent of this deduction was returned from January 1st of this year, and, consequently, since that date there has only been a deduction of 5% from the per capita allowance of \$160.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. R. L. MacInnes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T. R. L. MacInnes,
Acting Secretary.

Very Rev. Henry Keane, S.J.,
160 Wellesley Crescent,
Toronto 5, Ont.

Sir,
I am in present in communication with Rev. Paul Mery, Principal of the Indian Residential School, Spanish, Ont. He informs me that he has received instructions from you to keep separate accounts ~~of the per capita grant~~ for pupils and staff of the per capita grant.

The following salaries are suggested for the staff:

Principal & Assistant.....	\$1500	p.a.
3 Teachers.....	1800	,,
2 Cooks.....	800	,,
5 Instructors.....	2500	,,
1 Bursar & Dispenser.....	500	,,

\$7100

It will be difficult to provide the above not exorbitant salaries out of the existing per capita grant. Yet for the efficiency of the school it is imperative that the present staff be maintained, being as it is, only just adequate to the teaching and instruction required. I suggest therefore that the per capita grant be increased. I understand that a 15% reduction was made last year, of which 5% has recently been restored. A further 5% on the present allowance would enable the above salaries to be paid, and I trust you will see your way to this increase for the Spanish school.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,