

Indian Residential Scho
May 6th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial, P.E.

What with the Inspector's visit which lasted for several days, and His Excellency's confirmation tour we have been very busy and I had to put off answering your letter.

As regards Father Heberty - I do hate to be continually rebuffing offers. To make sure that I was not being biased I mentioned the matter to Frs. Hannen and McKey. They both were of the opinion that we would rather add to our difficulties. The place where he could be of help would be the parish and yet he has created a reputation, deserved or not, of antagonizing people. I am not referring to his work in Wabsewemikong. He is a traveller too and we know how little he would take

has a run of missions beside. His chance to speak will be slim since we have one school to the O.M.S.'s many. Cardinal Mac Tugan is presenting the church groups to the committee. If this arrangement is not satisfactory we can change it.

Fr Plouffe wanted an immediate answer so we helped our selves by discussing the matter and came to the decision that you would want us to be represented.

Alas poor Fr Sullivan. I do to my regret depend on him to do four things connected with the Bishops visit - he let the four slide and could have made us all look very silly - but we took no chances and checked just before the time for action and did it (as usual) ourselves. He is sick, it seems so useless to me to hound and harry him, he just would

of perfecting. I have come to understand, however, that whoever is sent to the one the Lord wants to send and will forebear picking and choosing with this exception — that the post of prefect and minister is so vital to the house that it takes a good man and in case such a man is not available then it would be better to control the position myself. It is so easy to let discipline and cleanliness and a good spirit go by sleekness. This may sound like an ultimatum from an inferior — but I have been most deficient in asking for men and fussing about it all, that I am somewhat more than ordinarily aware of its unreasonableness of such requests. The matter of prefect is a serious one.

Dr Hamner has not had his X-ray yet. We are expecting the clinic from day to day. He has suffered a great deal, is beginning to believe that it is rheumatism.

Mr Epoch left for Toronto. I do not know just what should be done. It is always possible Dr Donnelly could be gravely mistaken and that

provided we do not have some other unexpected drain on the community account which seems unlikely.

On May 27th the Catholic church group appears before the Committee of those appointed for the amendment of the Indian Act. Fr Plouffe who is the superintendent at the Oblate office at Ottawa (Indian Welfare and Training Commission) sent an invitation to have me go or send a man to represent the school and missions. We talked it over, (he wished a definite answer right away) — and if your Reverence approves Fr McKey will go. We wrote immediately to that effect. We shall give Fr McKey every bit of information which can help — As for my going, that is just the time of the vacation. There is class, study and the other work which cannot be imposed on others. Fr McKey is on the board and he

there is physically something very wrong with him. He looked most miserable these last weeks. In order to shake him out of what the Dr. thought mostly self pity, I had a talk with him as regards the idea of some amount of sacrifice of ourselves in regard to health and the danger of becoming totally introverted. He agreed that he worried continually about himself and gave no thought to others who for weeks carried on the burden of his detail but looked even more depressed afterwards. I was sorry I had not skipped the whole thing. May I leave the whole matter of which doctor etc to you father? It has me stymied.

Dr Paulsd took a new lease on life at the prospect of Victoria. He found the weather, the environment and all very trying in the Spring. Our house is more cheerful with his withdrawal.

not do certain things, to force him into
 accepting them means torturing him and driving
 yourself mad and finally doing it yourself - for
 humiliations, a few confessions, mass at the
 convent, occasional baptisms yes - and he
 is a help that way ^{but} for any routine - he can't!
 He is happy here until he gets in the dog-
 house for stealing (better appropriating) many
 pounds of sugar from the kitchen. It is not
 quite the type of thing that conduces ad fovendam
 benevolentiam with the cooks and (considerably)
 dashes cold water on the minister's spirits
 but I believe he cannot help it. I think the
 only fair way is to consider him sick and
 accept him as such.

If there were a scholastic anywhere who
 needed a rest or change he could get it here
 with just a little supervising to do. It is really
 rough on Sr. Hannan right now. But we naturally
 do not expect anyone to be taken out a job
 and thus create another vacancy -

In care of you
 services

Raymond Oliver of

Dr Puffed was in the General Hospital for a period of six months. They do not send a bill we thought I requested one. The army, as I understand could not do anything for him in the matter. Now Bro Jafansson bill at Sudbury (with the ordinary deductions for clergy or religious) was just slightly under three hundred dollars — for less than three months. I talked the matter over here and with Dr Tim. The expenses at the Asylum are very high. Dr Tim suggested we send a cheque of four hundred, it does seem an imposition to accept the whole matter as settled and makes it embarrassing in case of other people's going there. For Brocha Vandemoor we did not receive a bill either, and so I should like direction when you come. I feel you might like to talk the matter over with Dr Brennan. We have been waiting and have not paid off our full quotas of taxation. That can be easily handled in a month or two,

P.S. I must apologize for the set up of this letter -
 Mr Richard has come in several times to ask
 for help with this and that. He is in fine health
 a grand help for confusions and a tower of
 strength with his holiness and good spirits.

Always in Christ

To Oliver

Indian Residential School
Spanish, Ontario
May 15th 1947

Very Reverend Dear Father Provincial, P.C.

Father Hawkins will be in one of these days to see about a matter which we discussed to no end while he was up here. All of the missionaries in this section think that this is a matter of importance and we thought that the best way would be to have him represent the thing to you personally and orally since he is well aware of the problem.

The Daughters of Mary, as your Reverence is aware have decided to close Wikwemikong and Garden River. It is regrettable that either place must be closed, but to our way of looking at it, the closing of Wikwemikong can have disastrous results to these schools. Most of our pupils who would be recruited for high school for the Boys and Girls section here would necessarily be drawn from Wikwemikong and the surrounding missions. Smaller missions are being kept and this very large mission dropped..and in the case of Wikwemikong only one of the ladies with teacher qualifications is being gained for the other work, if there were several then the the urgent need of help might be a better argument.

His Excellency would agree quite readily to their remaining in Wikwemikong; from what I could gather during his visit here, he would be hard put to it to get help.

I have of course not written to Miss DeNeuville since I felt it was not my place to do so, it would have very little effect. This letter was more by way of seconding the proposal that Fr. Hawkins will make, or rather of affirming its necessity. I am sorry this letter is rather jumbled but it has been interrupted a dozen times.

Just now the Indians on all sides are preparing briefs. I went with Fr Hawkins to the Island, or rather rushed him there! Now Fr. Dwyer's Indians are all set with a formal brief, as are Fr. Howitt's and Fr MacKey's, we had no time to get one lined up for Garden River.....

but hope to do so before Monday when the meeting is to be held (of all the Indians in these reserves) at Little Current. The Briefs from this line will cancel the former demand made for Public Schools and demand denominational schools. Representatives will go to Ottawa for the twenty-second to appear before the committee; Fortunately Mr. Farquahar in whose electorate all these Indians live, and who is himself on the committee was, because of the short notice, forced to call on Fr. Dwyer to get the meeting organized. The Indians had not the slightest knowledge of how to prepare the briefs, and were glad to get business like set-ups, the rest was easy, we hope everything goes smoothly. This means that we are sure of controlling ten briefs out of possibly twelve, and the meeting will have a very decidedly Catholic flavour as it is fit since the vast majority of these Indians are Catholic. I could see that Fr. Jos. Dwyer's influence was capable of having them do things well since the Indian chief or councillor came all the way from Birch Island to consult him. Fr. McKey has his men all lined up and they were more than glad to repair the unintentional error made at Garden River.

Asking for your blessing on our community
your's obediently in Xto.,

Raymond Oliver

P.O. - Any help given in forming the Briefs was not forced on the Indians. The line-up was shown and under "optional" in schools was stressed the denominational idea which they readily accepted when it was explained to them. Shores in Xto.
Fr. Oliver