

In my opinion the fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of oily rags left in the rubbish box in the sitting room of the junior boys. The statements made by Miss Bailey and Miss Sainsbury will be self-explanatory in this respect.

As a large portion of the floors in the dormitory and sitting room were burned entirely, it was considered urgent that immediate repairs should be made in order for the school to carry on, and I so advised the Department in my wire. At the time the wire was sent I had not had an opportunity to make a careful estimate of the cost of repairs nor could I tell at that time exactly what would be necessary owing to the condition of the building, and therefore stated in my wire One Thousand Dollars would be the maximum amount required for repairs. Since then, however, I have carefully examined all the damage and find the cost is going to be much less than originally estimated. Although we have not had time to get prices on material, it is felt from Three to Four Hundred Dollars will purchase all the material required, and Mr. Anfield has just now told me if the Department would provide this material at once, the Manual Training class will undertake to make the repairs before school closes.

The Residential School closes next week, and if the Department would approve of letting us purchase the material locally at once, we will be able to have most of the repairs done by the Manual Training Instructor and his class and this would save the Department considerable money, but if this cannot be arranged then I would recommend that the work be done by contract or day labour and completed as quickly as possible.

This report and recommendation is being forwarded the Department by "air mail" in order that we may have an early reply in case the Department can see their way clear to have the work done by the Manual Training class, in which case I would ask the Department to advise me by wire.

Your obedient servant,

M. S. Todd

(M. S. Todd)
Indian Agent

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

ENQUIRY BY M.S. TODD, INDIAN AGENT, INTO FIRE
at
ST. MICHAEL'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
Alert Bay, B.C.
on
June 13th, 1939

Statement by Mr. F.E. Anfield, Principal:

I was awakened at 3.30 A.M. today by the ringing of the fire alarm in my residence. I proceeded to the main school with a flashlight, and went to the office and picked up a megaphone, then proceeded to both sides of the school and observed that children were already filing down the fire escapes. I then went over to the boys' side to ascertain the cause of the alarm, and on opening the door of the Lower School boys' sitting room, discovered one corner of the room in flames, with a great deal of smoke evident. I then unhooked the hydrant hose on the main floor, turned on the water, and directed the nozzle to the base of the fire, left the hose there running, and went out and made sure that the correct count of children had been reported.

I then went back to the source of the fire with the fire-fighting squad of boys and the Assistant Farm Instructor, whom I ordered to hook up the outside hydrants. I went back into the building and directed a stream of water from the inside hydrant on the fire, which was quickly put under control as far as danger to the loss of the building was concerned. By this time the main fire fighting pump was in operation and we put two main lines into the building and fought the fire from the basement toilet on the boys' side. I had also instructed the Head Matron to remove four patients from the Infirmary; had also observed the school Engineer was on the job with the domestic school pump whilst the Manual Training Instructor was in charge of the fire pump which took approximately thirty-five minutes before delivery of water was affected. This was reported to me by both the Engineer and the Manual Training Instructor.

At approximately 3.50 A.M. I called the local telephone system fire alarm and was answered by Mrs. Studdy whom I requested to pass the call along. By 4 A.M. the fire was under control. I then instructed the men to cut open certain parts of the floors and ceilings of the sitting room; the interiors were flooded with water.

The action of children and staff in vacating the building was carried out most admirably; there was no panic or excitement of any kind in spite of the large volume of smoke in the dormitories on the boys' side. As soon as the fire was completely under control the children were returned to the dormitories, and a strict watch kept on the location of the fire. Hot cocoa was provided for the children working on the fire. All children whilst outside were covered with blankets, the weather was fine, and warm. By 6.30 everything was back to normal and the water all cleaned up, and the school is now functioning as usual.

From my observation I conclude that the fire started in a rubbish box in the corner of this sitting room. This room is immediately above the basement of the school and below the junior boys' dormitory.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

No damage to equipment resulted from this fire, but I would estimate that damage amounting to One Thousand Dollars was done to the structure. The ceiling of the boys' downstairs toilet and of the lower school boys' sitting room will have to be replaced, and quite a lot of new joists, studding and flooring have to be put in, as well as painting. The boys' clothing room and upstairs dormitories will have to be redecorated due to smoke damage and paint blisters.

A night watchman was not on duty, he having been laid off on the 30th of May. It is customary at this school to engage a night watchman from October to the end of April, but in view of the worry caused by the loss of our Carcross School, I requested the Commission to put this man back on duty for the month of May, particularly in view of the special ceremonies in connection with the King's visit to British Columbia, which brought extra people passing through. So far as a Night Watchman is concerned I may say so far as I am aware the Department pays a grant for a night watchman for schools which are considered fire risks. I however took the stand that this school was not a fire-proof building, and years ago requested a night watchman for at least the six months of winter when the furnaces were kept going all night. It is my belief, however, that a night watchman should be on duty in this school for the entire term and I have arranged for him to return to duty tonight.

I would like to file herewith copy of Instructions to all staff members regarding fire drills, etc. and Notices issued recently in connection with danger of fire. That this training has been well done was evident to all this morning. Every child was safely out of the building inside of four and one-half minutes.

Indian Agent Todd:

What is your idea of how the fire could start in the rubbish box? Do you think there is a possibility of any of the boys smoking and throwing a cigarette butt in there?

Mr. Anfield:

No, I am certain it was not that, because the big boys have no access to that room. They are not allowed in there, it belongs to the little boys. In any case, this fire which we discovered at 3.30 could hardly have been burning from the time any boy had access to that room as they were all in bed by nine o'clock. If they had thrown a cigarette butt at that time surely it would have been discovered as rounds are made by the man on duty at ten o'clock. My opinion is that oily rags must have been in the box as I believe they oiled the floors yesterday.

Indian Agent Todd:

Are the boys permitted to smoke at all?

Mr. Anfield

No, and the men on the staff are asked never to smoke on duty and only in their own rooms or in the staff sitting room. All dormitories are locked, and the boys have no access to the lower school boys' sitting room after they go to bed.

I might add too that the electric lighting plant ran well throughout the alarm and at approximately 4.15 I instructed the Engineer to pull the main switch in case the fire should have burned through any connections.

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

Statement by Mr. B.G. Chambers, Vice-Principal:-

I sleep on the top floor of the building. About 3.30 I was wakened by the boys hammering on No.1 dormitory door. I got up and went down to it, and opened it and found it full of smoke. I then hurried down to the room below it, the lower school boys' sitting room, and on opening the door I could see flames from the floor going to the top of the ceiling. I shut that door, it had been closed, but not locked. When I got up the stairs Miss Turner was on the landing, she had heard the hammering too. I went and opened both dormitory doors, No.3 and 4 and put all the lights on in all the dormitories and toilets and then put the fire gong on over on the far wall of No.4 dormitory. Then I unlocked the fire escape doors on No.3 and 4 dormitories and we got the boys out. They went out very quietly from both dormitories, taking a small boy each with them from the lower dormitories. The fire escape door in the lower dormitory was right above the fire.

After the boys had left the two top dormitories I made sure that there was no boy in either dormitory or in the toilets. I went round and looked under the beds and all around, then I went down and the ladies asked me to make a second check in No.1 dormitory which I did. Then I followed the boys around to the front of the building and put the fire ladder up to the Infirmary windows and carried three children down the ladder. One boy was able to come down himself. Then I went back to help Mr. Anfield.

Mr. Anfield

Do you think the fire could have started in the toilet below the sitting room? I

Mr. Chambers

I do not think so; I think it started right in the corner of the lower school boys' sitting room, close to the fire escape. That is where the flames were going up. The rubbish box is gone entirely, and it is usually in the corner.

Indian Agent Todd

What was the construction of the box?

Mr. Chambers

It was a tea box, of three-ply.

Indian Agent Todd

Is there anything else in that room?

Mr. Chambers

The boys' slicker coats, but they are all there. There is a bench along the wall, the end of it is charred.

Mr. Anfield

Do you think that the fire could have been prevented in any way by having that door locked?

Mr. Chambers

I do not think so, not if it started from what we think it did. Mr. Hill said he was in there about 10.30 so it could not have been from a match or cigarette stub or he would have noticed it.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Mr. Anfield

Have you any suggestions to make in regard to the fire protection system in regard to the removal of children?

Mr. Chambers

The children were perfectly safe getting out and were very quiet and orderly, but I did think if we had a man at the foot of the fire escapes it might be a help in a really serious case. One thing I would suggest would be to have some kind of mask a person could put on in case of emergency to check the children. I thought that this morning when I went into that room; if there had been children in it you would have to get them, and if the smoke had been a little bit thicker you could not do anything.

Mr. Anfield

Have you fire instructions posted in your room?
Yes.

Did you follow them?
Yes.

How long have you been in the School?
Nine years and two months.

Statement of Mr. F. Hutchinson, Manual Training Instructor

My duty in case of fire is to go down and start the sea-water fire pump. At approximately 3.30 this morning I heard the fire bell ringing, and got a few clothes on and ran down and started to prime the fire pump and while I was waiting to prime it I gave the engine a turn over to warm it up, then waited till Mr. Ward came down. About 2 minutes after 4 exactly we had it going. We have to wait until our fresh water gets into it and primes it. If it was efficient it would be primed right off the bat. The tide was very low but I could not see the intake of the pump line. If the pump had been working properly we would not have had any difficulty. I stayed there for three minutes then Mr. Ward told me to come up here and help you out and he looked after it from then.

Mr. Anfield

We are trying to ascertain the cause of the fire. As Manual Training Instructor, did you give out any oil, linseed, or turps yesterday?

Mr. Hutchinson

I gave some oil to Miss Bailey to do the floors. A little boy came in and he took the wrong tin; instead of the floor oil he took the linseed oil. Miss Bailey remarked to me after how much further it went, and I explained to her that it was linseed oil instead of the regular floor oil they generally use.

Mr. Anfield

I am going to ask you a personal question - what time did you come in last night? Did you notice any smoke or light of any kind as you came in?

Mr. Hutchinson I came in about 12.30, by the back dormitory door. The windows were all closed so I would not have noticed smoke, but I would have seen a glow if there had been one, as it was pitch black. The last time I was in that sitting room was about 6 o'clock last night, I looked in when I came off duty.

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POOR-COPY

Mr. Anfield

Did you ever see anybody smoke in there?

Mr. Hutchinson

No.

Mr. Anfield What is the rule?

Mr. Hutchinson Staff are not permitted to smoke while on duty.

Mr. Anfield Have you fire instructions in your bedroom?

Mr. Hutchinson I have; all I did this morning was what I was supposed to do.

Mr. Anfield Those instructions are in writing?
Yes.

Mr. Anfield have you any suggestions to make that would improve the system of fire protection?

Mr. Hutchinson The only thing is to have a buzzer in the dormitory so that the children could signal the supervisors in a case like this. Also to have one man free to go to the seat of the trouble, to have no other duty.

Mr. Anfield I consider that my first duty and the first duty of every staff member is to see that the school is clear of children; that they are all safe first, then we can concentrate on the fire, but the children come first.

Indian Agent Todd Did you see that box that was in the room yesterday?

Mr. Hutchinson I just noticed it, I did not see it closely or what was in it.

Mr. Anfield What are those boxes used for generally?

Mr. Hutchinson Just to keep the room tidy, to throw dirt and orange papers into. The floors are swept and the dirt and garbage are thrown into it and it is taken away in the morning. They are usually emptied at 6 o'clock at night of the day's rubbish, and it is only the night sweepings that are left over night.

Mr. Anfield From your observation where did the fire originate?

Mr. Hutchinson In the corner where that box was kept in the boys' sitting room, immediately under the boys' dormitory, right next to the fire escape door.

Mr. Anfield How long did it take you from the time you woke up till you got to the engine?

Mr. Hutchinson About two minutes; I had everything ready, but it took about half an hour to get that pump primed and going. If we hadn't had the fresh water tank full we would not have had a chance. Mr. Ward started the domestic pump first; I can't start my engine until it is fully primed.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Statement of Miss L. Bailey, Boys' Supervisor

I imagine it was about 3.30, I didn't look at my watch, we heard the boys knock and Miss Finley and I both got up. we heard the door of No.2 dormitory open and Mr. Chambers went in. When we went out of our room Miss Finley went to No.1 and I went to No.2 and found the boys ready to go out with blankets over their shoulders. Miss Finley had opened the fire escape door in No.1 dormitory and Mr. Chambers had opened the one in No.3 and 4; I waited till his boys came down and one big boy took one little boy and we proceeded; we had started when Mr. Chambers had the fire bell ringing. There was no disturbance or any excitement. I counted each boy as they passed and the number was right. They were counted four or five times altogether then we reported to Mr. Anfield.

Yesterday morning I oiled the boys' sitting room floor and the two hallways. We did not put much on, we only had about three inches in the pail, just enough to stop the dust. I helped the boys do it. We got the oil from Mr. Hutchinson, I asked for floor oil but I didn't know till the afternoon that the boys had made a mistake and got the wrong kind. I think it was linseed oil they got. We didn't have very much but it went a long way. After we finished our floors I asked Miss Sainsbury if she would like the boys to help her do her classroom floor and at 4 o'clock we went to her room, she was there too, and we took the cloths we had used and wiped them over her floor. We used every bit of oil up, in fact the cloths were almost dry when we finished, but they were very dusty. When we got through Miss Sainsbury remarked to me about being careful of the rags, so I said to the boys "Put them in the garbage can" and I said "Be sure and put them outside", and Miss Sainsbury said "Yes, put them outside". We stressed the point. The boys went and put the rags away, and they came back and said "We have finished, Miss Bailey". I said "Did you do what I said", and they said "Yes". By this time prayer bell had gone.

After supper we tidied up our sitting room, swept the floor and picked up anything around. We had emptied the garbage can in the afternoon so we put the dirt in the garbage can. The boys did the sweeping up. I didn't look into the can, I didn't know they had put the rags in there. We usually empty the garbage can at night, but there wasn't any dirt. I got my boys this morning and asked them if they put the rags in the inside garbage box or in the outside can, and they told me in the box.

Mr. Anfield

Thank you Miss Bailey for your very frank statement. What we wanted to know was how the fire started and if there was any possibility of incendiary action. It would appear it was spontaneous combustion with all the dust on the rags down in the bottom of the box.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Mr. W. Hill, Assistant Farm Instructor.

Mr. Anfield You were on duty last evening?

Mr. Hill Yes.

Q. Did you make rounds?
A. Yes, at 10.30.

Q. Did you visit the lower boys' sitting room?
A. Yes, it was the first place I went to. I closed the windows.

Q. Did you notice this garbage box?
A. No, not particularly; I went in with my flashlight.

Q. Was there any sign of fire?
A. No. I noticed the smell of the newly oiled floor.

Q. You have read these Notices put up recently about fire?
A. Yes, I have.

Q. Did you lock the door of the room?
A. No, I closed it but did not lock it.

Indian Agent When you make your rounds do you ever look into any of these waste paper boxes inside the building?

A. No. Last night was my first night that I made the rounds. I am new at the school and Mr. Coulard has been making the rounds but our duties have been changed.

Q. You did not see any boys around the school last night after 9 o'clock?

A. No, they were all in bed. I was upstairs with the boys till 10 o'clock, then I came down and Mr. Chambers was there. He said he would be up there. I made rounds at 10.30. I went to the kitchen and the boys' basement downstairs, everything was alright.

Miss Sainsbury, Teacher

Mr. Anfield We would like you to answer a few questions, about the oil that was used yesterday.

Miss Sainsbury Miss Bailey came to me and said she was going to have the floors oiled, and asked if I would like to have my classroom done. I said it was very dusty and some oil might improve it. At 4 o'clock she came and said could we do it then because she didn't want to keep it she would send it back to the Manual Training Shop if there was any left and I didn't want it. So she came in with two boys, there was very little oil left in the bottom of the pail. We got the rags she had used and they did the floor. There was only enough to do the front part of my classroom. When we finished, I said to her "Be careful about the rags, where are they going to put them?" She said, "outside".

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

I said, "You know I am very frightened about rags; I never have them in my classroom because I am afraid they might explode or something". She said, "We will put them outside in the garbage can".

In the evening I went back to my classroom after I came off duty and I thought I smelled an odor; it did not seem like fumes, it was just a strong smell of oil. I went into the boys' sitting room and said to Miss Finley "I think I will open these windows but they have to be closed at ten o'clock and I do not think I will be in my classroom. There seems to be a strong odor around here". I asked her who was on duty and she said "Mr. Hill". I saw Mr. Hill and if he would see that the windows were closed and he said he would.

During the time I was in my classroom Mr. Anfield came to the door and I noticed when he opened the door there was a strong odor and I wondered if it was in my classroom or outside. I went to the register and smelled it and it wasn't there and then I spoke to Mr. Anfield. I was not really worried about fire but it was on my mind because of this odor, but I remembered about the floors. I went to bed about 10.30 and was up when the bell rang. I did not smell anything, I am on the girls' side and the control door was closed.

Mr. W. Hill, Assistant Farm Instructor

Indian Agent

When you went into the room last night to close the windows did you smell a strong odor in there?

Mr. Hill Yes, I noticed it but I thought it to be the newly oiled floors. It was not very strong, I presume the windows being open had killed it. I went straight to the windows and closed them.

Indian Agent

Mr. Anfield, is it customary to oil the floors in the school?

Mr. Anfield

Yes, the floors on the boys' side and the auditorium where there is hard wear are oiled about four or five times a year.

Mr. W. Ward, Engineer

Mr. Anfield You used the other water supply first, the domestic supply?

Mr. Ward Yes, I went straight up to that pump and then down to the other pump house.

Indian Agent

Did you have any difficulty getting the water in the pump?

Mr. Ward Yes, "Hutch" was down there from about 3.30; it was just after 4 when we got it pumping.

Q. What is the cause of the delay?

A. It is the priming; it is caused through the faulty intake.

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Indian Agent

How long has this situation existed?

Mr. Ward

For the last eighteen months it has gradually been getting worse.

Indian Agent

Was the domestic pump running all the time?

Mr. Ward

Yes; as soon as I was notified I went up and it started in a couple of minutes. I make it a point that that tank is full every night; it was full last night at 10 o'clock. The capacity is 15,000 gallons.

Indian Agent

Did the equipment work alright when you got it working?

Mr. Ward

Yes, except that it is hard to prime and towards the end it lost its prime and would not pump enough.

Indian Agent

If this intake is repaired, will it be alright?

Mr. Ward

Yes. If it is repaired it can have full pressure in 45 seconds. The way it is now you just have to wait, and the way it is now there is no fire protection for the Preventorium except our own domestic pump.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COP

Ottawa,
July 22, 1939.

Memorandum:

MR. BAILEY

I am in receipt of your memorandum of July 3 in connection with our requisition for two diesel engines for use at the Alert Bay Indian residential school.

In forwarding the request for these engines the Principal wrote as follows:

"In connection with these items it should be remembered that they will replace the present units and will do away entirely with batteries, the present set of which is just about finished. It is doubtful if the present batteries will last the winter without giving serious trouble and it would appear the wiser policy to save the continued purchase of batteries at this school every five years at a cost of \$600.00 or \$700.00 per installation, and at the same time do away with the fire risk of the present gasoline-driven plant."

It would be appreciated if arrangements were made for ordering these engines immediately.

(over)
H. W. W. W.
Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Ottawa,
July 22, 1939.

Memorandum:

DEPUTY MINISTER

Re: Alert Bay Indian Residential School,
Kwawkwalth Indian Agency, Electoral
District of Comox-Alberni.

In connection with repairs that are being made at the above-mentioned school it will be necessary to employ some outside labour. Two men will be needed and it is estimated that the total cost of the labour will not exceed \$150.00.

The Principal suggests that we engage Mr. Fred Sharpe and Mr. H. McCuaig. With regard to these men the Principal writes:

"They are good carpenters and both of them have worked before at this school for the Department. I am sure they would be acceptable to the local Member."

As the work to be done at the school should be completed at the earliest possible date I should appreciate receiving your authority for the employment of the men mentioned.

Shaw
Director.

PP

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Ottawa,
July 22, 1939.

Reverend Sir:

With reference to your letter of the 15th instant I hope to be able to authorize the employment of the labourers mentioned in Mr. Anfield's letter in connection with the repairs at the Alert Bay school.

Yours truly,


Philip Phelan,
Chief, Training Division.

Rev. T.B.R. Westgate, D.D.,
Secretary, Indian and Eskimo
Residential School Commission,
38-43 The Bible House,
184 Alexander Ave. East,
Winnipeg, Man.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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POOR-COPY

Ottawa,
July 22, 1939.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed accounts have just been received from the Surveys & Engineering Branch and cover the cost of work in connection with repairs to the fire pump at the Alert Bay Indian residential school. Please attach the accounts to proper voucher forms and certify and forward for payment. The purchase orders and all other correspondence forwarded with this letter should be attached to the vouchers which you issue.

Yours truly,

Philip Phelan,
Chief, Training Division.


M. S. Todd, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Alert Bay, B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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156-6-5

The Indian and Eskimo Residential School Commission
of the
Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada

GENERAL SECRETARY, M.S.C.C.

SECRETARY, INDIAN AND ESKIMO RESIDENTIAL
SCHOOL COMMISSION
REV. T. B. R. WESTGATE, D.D.
THE BIBLE HOUSE, WINNIPEG, MAN.

FIELD SECRETARY, M.S.C.C.
REV. L. A. DIXON, M.A., O.B.E.

GENERAL TREASURER, M.S.C.C.
J. M. McWHINNEY, ESQ.

ACCOUNTANT, M.S.C.C.
R. A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

TELEPHONE 94832

38-43 THE BIBLE HOUSE
184 ALEXANDER AVE. EAST



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, M.S.C.C.

THE PRIMATE, EX-OFFICIO, CHAIRMAN
ARCHBISHOP OF RUPERT'S LAND
THE BISHOP OF QUEBEC
THE BISHOP OF HURON
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ARCHDEACON SNOWDON
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REV. CANON C. G. LAWRENCE
THE HON. AND REV. DR. CODY
F. G. VENABLE
MAJOR E. A. HETHRINGTON
PROF. H. F. ARMSTRONG, M.A.
MRS. R. E. WODEHOUSE
MRS. D. B. DONALDSON

WINNIPEG, MAN. July 15, 1939.

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines & Resources,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

In connection with the enclosed letter from the Principal of our St. Michael's School at Alert Bay, B.C., I would strongly recommend that his request for authority to engage the carpenters mentioned to undertake the repairs to that part of the Main School building damaged by fire be granted. As a large saving was effected on the transportation of the graduate pupils, there should not, as far as I am aware, be any serious difficulty in applying the amount thus saved to the repairs in question.

As it is important that the repairs should be completed before the school reopens in the autumn, I would further recommend that authority to engage the carpenters mentioned be telegraphed at once to Mr. Indian Agent Todd.

Your obedient servant,

Secretary of the Commission.

TBRW, WH

Encl.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL COMMISSION

COPY.

Mr. F. EARL ANFIELD
Principal



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL
Alert Bay, B. C.

11th July, 1939.

The Secretary,
Indian Residential School Commission,
M. S. C. C.,
38-43 The Bible House,
184 Alexander Avenue, East,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Sir,

Further to correspondence regarding the damage done in the recent fire at this school, attached please find copy of letter from the Indian Agent, Alert Bay, of even date. You will note that the School is expected to supply the labour and in this connection it is necessary to make the following statement:

On the date after the fire, i.e., on June 14th, I interviewed Mr. Indian Agent Todd and informed him that the School Manual Training Instructor, and a class of twelve boys, were prepared and willing to do this work provided that authority was issued to purchase materials immediately. I notified Mr. Todd officially that the school would be closing inside of ten days, and that if action was not taken at once, we would be unable to carry this out. I understand from Mr. Todd that on June 17th authority was wired from Ottawa to make the necessary purchases. The material is just starting to arrive now, almost one month from the date of the fire.

The Manual Training Instructor is away on his Summer School course, following which he will take two weeks vacation. We have no boys in school capable of undertaking this work without skilled supervision. The few boys we have in school are kept more than occupied on the farm and other essential work at the school. All the boys really capable of doing this work are on vacation and most of them are graduates in any case.

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The Secretary,
I. R. S. C., M.S. C. C.

Under the circumstances, it would hardly seem reasonable to expect the school to supply labour for this task, and after consultation with the Indian Agent, I would ask that you lay this matter before Ottawa forthwith with the request that authority be telegraphed to engage two men to proceed with this work immediately.

My estimate for labour was two men, 15 days each at \$5.00 a day, total \$150.00. Every effort will be made to have the job completed within or less than the estimated time. It is imperative that the work be placed in hand at once as there are gaping holes in the floors and charred walls in the basement and sitting rooms affected, not to mentioned the water-spoiled walls.

I am sure that Ottawa does not realise that there has been such a delay somewhere and that the only material so far received is the sheet metal ceiling which arrived last week.

The Department authorized a grant of \$145.00 to pay the fares of graduating pupils, and it may help to point out to them that following a strenuous effort, it was possible to get the parents to meet all of this amount but \$30.00, leaving \$115.00 unspent, which the Department might be able to apply on this work of repair.

There are two good carpenters available, Mr. Fred Sharpe and Mr. H. McCuaig, both of whom have worked before at this school for the Department. A good helper is also available, a Mr. R. Thompson, who also has worked here before, so any, or all, would be acceptable to the local member, I'm sure.

If, for any reason, the Department is unable to unwilling to sanction this labour cost, I am compelled to ask immediate authority to engage same and charge to the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

W. H. H. H. H.

Principal.

FEA/L.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

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156-0-5

EXTRACT
ORIGINAL ON
3/167-24

Quote File I.A. 1756-3
I.A. 1780-31

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
JUL 17 1939
REGISTERED

Ottawa, July 14th, 1939.

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Christianson.

I am enclosing the following accounts in connection with Alert Bay and Sliammon Indian village:-

Alert Bay.

Gordon & Belyea.....	\$18.64
" "	29.43
General Repair Shop.....	2.00
Paylist for labour.....	56.50
Letson & Burpee, Ltd.....	19.04
McLennan, McFeely & Prior.....	20.87

x x x

It is understood that payment of these accounts will be made by your branch.

T. S. Mills.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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Ottawa, July 12, 1939.

Memorandum:MR. BAILEY:

I am in receipt of your memorandum of the third instant, with reference to the order for two Diesel engines for the Alert Bay Indian Residential School.

With reference to the necessity for these engines, I may say that unless they are supplied it will be necessary to purchase new batteries. The following is a quotation from a letter received from the Principal of the Alert Bay school and approved by the Indian Agent:-

"In connection with these items, it should be remembered that they will replace the present units and will do away entirely with batteries, the present set of which is just about finished. It is doubtful if the present batteries will last the winter without giving serious trouble and it would appear the wiser policy to save the continued purchase of batteries at this school every five years at a cost of \$600.00 or \$700.00 per installation, and at the same time do away with the fire risk of the present gasoline-driven plant".

R. A. Hoey,
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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156/0/5 156-0-5

ADDRESS REPLY TO
PURCHASING DIVISION



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 28242-15-16

Shelton

OTTAWA July 3rd, 1939.



Memorandum

Mr. R.A. Hoey

With reference to your requisition of the 3rd ultimo, File 156-0-5 for two Diesel engines to replace the batteries on the lighting plant now in use at the Alert Bay Indian Residential School, I would suggest that, to assist in securing the necessary Ministerial approval for the purchase of this equipment, you arrange to furnish us with a memorandum outlining the necessity for these engines, with complete information as to the condition of the present batteries and how long they have been in use.

W.M. Bailey
for W.M. Bailey
Departmental Purchasing Agent.

WMV/HC

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
PURCHASING DIVISION



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 28242-15-16

July 3rd, 1939.
OTTAWA

Memorandum

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W.M. Bailey
Departmental Purchasing Agent.

WMV/HC

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

156-0-5

Ottawa, July 7, 1939.

Memorandum:

DIRECTOR,
SURVEYS & ENGINEERING BRANCH

I am in receipt of your memorandum of June 30, with reference to the new fire pump required at the Alert Bay Indian Residential School.

As you were informed by telephone, funds will be available for payment of this pump. Would it not be possible for your officers to certify the account and forward it here, when cheque could be issued. This will save the inconvenience of transferring the money.

Howell
Director.

July 13/39

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

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EXTRACT
ORIGINAL ON

75-156



fb
AGENT'S REPORT ON KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY FOR JUNE 1939.

x

x

x

During the month, a rather serious fire took place at the residential school, causing some damage and inconvenience. This matter was reported to the department and it is hoped the repairs will be made shortly so that the school will be back to its normal state before school reopens.

x

x

x

M.S. Todd.
Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

EXTRACT
ORIGINAL ON

75-156

156-0-5

File



AGENT'S REPORT ON KWAWKEWLTH AGENCY FOR JUNE 1939

x

x

x

Mr. Warren of the Dominion Water Bureau visited the agency during the month and made repairs to the residential school fire equipment which I understand is now in first class condition. Mr. Warren and I also investigated and looked further into the possibility of a domestic water supply for the Indian village at Alert Bay. We spent one day studying every problem facing us, and I believe now have a proper solution to it, and it is expected Mr. Warren will make further recommendations to the department in this respect.

x

x

M. S. Todd^x
Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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156-0-5

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



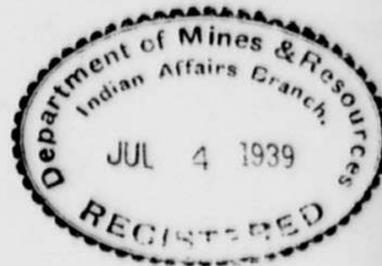
CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING BRANCH

Attention Mr. Phelan.

[Handwritten signature]

30th June, 1939.



Memorandum:

Dr. McGill

As advised by telephone this morning the following wire was received from Mr. Webb, District Chief Engineer at Vancouver,-

"Re Alert Bay School fire pump require additional two hundred seventy-five dollars repairs. Suction line broken and has been removed. Require authority emergency purchase one hundred twenty-five dollars. Wire authority to proceed before twenty-ninth letter air mail."

I understood in our conversation that money would be provided by Indian Affairs for this emergency job and I should be glad if you would advise if the money will be transferred to this Branch.

[Handwritten signature]
Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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156-0-5

Ottawa, June 29, 1939.

EX'D.

Dear Sir:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, reporting on the fire at the Alert Bay Indian Residential School on June 13.

Indian Commissioner MacKay was wired on the 17th instant and authorized to purchase the material required for the repairs, on the understanding that the school management would provide the labour.

I am pleased to note from your letter of the 14th instant that the damage done was not as extensive as you first considered it might be. I note also that the manual training class is prepared to do the necessary work.

Yours truly,

Philip Phelan,
Chief, Training Division.

M. S. Todd, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Alert Bay, B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

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Order No 24318

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Purchase Order

This order number to appear on all packages and invoices

File No. 34990-2
Alert Bay school

Central Sheet Metal Works,
1067 Richards St.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C. June 29 1939

Please forward the following to the address given below, and charge to account of the Department of Mines and Resources.

Render a separate invoice for each order and send 3 copies to Dominion Water and Power Bureau, 739 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C. when goods are shipped.

Quantity	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL
2	Zinc gaskets #10 gauge		
12	" washers "		
As per sketch left with you by Mr. Warren			
Price quoted for lot			\$ 2.00

Prices F.O.B. Vancouver

as per your verbal quote of June 27th to Mr. Warren

Shipping Instructions W.C. Warren, c/o F.E. Anfield, Principal, St. Michael's School, ALERT BAY, B.C. Prepaid

Vote 71 Allot. No. 63

Encumbrance No. 156

Certified in accordance with Section 29 of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, 1931.

For Comptroller of the Treasury

Date to be delivered Ship Friday's boat June 30

District Chief Engineer
Dominion Water and Power Bureau
for W. M. BAILEY,
Purchasing Agent

COPY FOR PURCHASING AGENT

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

Order No 24318

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Receipt Form

34990-2
File ~~Alert Bay~~ school

Central Sheet Metal Works,
1067 Richards St.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C. June 29 19³⁹

Supplies mentioned hereunder have been received and found satisfactory with exception of those listed under "Remarks."

Dominion Water and Power

Bureau, 739 West Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C.

Quantity	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL
2	Zinc gaskets #10 gauge		
12	" washers "		
	As per sketch left with you by Mr. Warren		
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Shipping Instructions W.C. Warren, c/o F.E. Anfield, Principal, St. Michael's School, ALERT BAY, B.C. Prepaid

Vote 71 Allot. No 3 Date to be delivered Ship Friday's boat June 30

Encumbrance No. 156
Freight or Express charges paid

Remarks: (Report shortages, if any) District Chief Engineer
Dominion Water and Power Bureau

Branch: Date: for W.C. Warren
Signature of Receiving Officer

TO BE RETURNED TO HEAD OF BRANCH

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Order No 24317

Purchase Order

This order number to appear on all packages and invoices

File No. 34990-2
Alert Bay School

Crane Ltd.,
540 Beatty St.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C. June 29 19 39.

Please forward the following to the address given below, and charge to account of the Department of Mines and Resources.

Render a separate invoice for each order and send 3 copies to Dominion Water and Power Bureau, 739 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. when goods are shipped.

Quantity	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL
1	Cranite Gasket for top of 10" Std. flanged check valve	1.40-62%	53¢
1	1/2" x 4' Brass nipple Std. pipe thread each end	50¢-62%	16¢
1	1/2" Brass Globe Valve suitable for cold salt water service - air tested	3.60-50%	1.80
			2.49

Prices F.O.B. Vancouver as per your tel. quote of June 26

Shipping Instructions W.C. Warren, c/o F.E. Anfield, Principal, St. Michael's School, ALERT BAY, B.C. Prepaid

Vote 71 Allot. No. 63

Encumbrance No. 156

Certified in accordance with Section 29 of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, 1931.

For Comptroller of the Treasury

Date to be delivered
Ship Friday's boat June 30.

District Chief Engineer
Dominion Water and Power Bureau
for W. M. BAILEY
Purchasing Agent

COPY FOR PURCHASING AGENT

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY

Order No 24317

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Receipt Form

34990-2
File Noert Bay School

Crane Ltd.,
540 Bently St.,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C. June 29 19 39.

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Dominion Water and Power

Bureau, 739 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C.

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Prices F.O.B. Vancouver as per your tel. quote of June 26

Shipping Instructions W.C. Warren, c/o F.E. Anfield, Principal, St. Michael's School, ALBERT BAY, B.C. Prepaid

Vote 71 Allot. No 3 Date to be delivered: Ship Friday's boat June 30.

Encumbrance No. 156
Freight or Express charges paid
Remarks: (Report shortages, if any) District Chief Engineer Dominion Water and Power Bureau for W.C. Warren

Branch: Date: Signature of Receiving Officer

TO BE RETURNED TO HEAD OF BRANCH

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6428, file 875-5, part 6)

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