

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 2nd October, 1925, from the Acting Minister of Public Works, submitting as follows:

That, in November 1918, a claim was filed with the Department of Public Works by Rev. Father Evain, Missionary in charge of the Indian Mission at Long Point, Quinze Lake, for damages to the church at Long Point caused by the Quinze Lake dam, one of the works carried out by the Department for the improvement of the Ottawa river and its tributaries. The matter was duly investigated by the Engineering Branch of the Department and as a result of negotiations with Rev. Father Evain, settlement of the claim was agreed to, subject to confirmation by Council on the following basis:

Payment to the Mission of \$1,000 for damages:

Removal of the church and rebuilding by the Mission on a different site, the Department to transport to the new site whatever material from the old church could be used for the new one - expenditure in this connection estimated at \$30.

The Minister states that an Order in Council was passed accordingly, under date of August 6th, 1919, and the terms of settlement were duly carried out. The new church is situated about 2 1/2 miles up the lake where the Mission is now located at a place known as Sandy Point;

That

*Stamp Public Works, Ottawa, Quebec 8 Oct 23  
of Rev. Father Evain 8.*

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That, on October 16, 1922, the Department of Indian Affairs made representations with regard to the flooding of the Indian cemetery at the Long Point Mission, as follows:

"I beg to enclose a letter from Rev. I. Evain, O.M.I., Missionary, with reference to the Indian Cemetery at Long Point, North Temiskaming, which has been flooded by the raising of the water level of Lake des Quinse, owing to the construction of a dam at the head of the lake. The soil covering the coffins in this cemetery has been, in many places, completely washed away and there are at present, over one hundred coffins entirely exposed. A number of coffins have already been carried away by the water and the present situation has caused great alarm among the Indians of that reserve.

The Missionary has made every effort to induce the Indians to choose a new location for their cemetery but they have refused to do so, being influenced by certain superstitious beliefs regarding the dead of their number. It appears necessary, therefore, to consider some means to remedy the existing unsanitary condition. Would it not be possible for your Department to undertake the building of a small retaining wall along the shore where the cemetery is located, and to refill the ground washed away within the area of the cemetery which consists of a few acres of land only. This would be satisfactory to the Indians and the Missionary who has charge of the cemetery."

That it is now stated that the Indians will consent to the removal of the bodies to a new cemetery. The District Engineer of the Department of Public Works reporting in the matter, states in part, as follows:-

"The matter has been followed up with a view to obtain definite data on which an approximate estimate of the cost of removal of the bodies might be based. I transmit correspondence had with the Rev. I. Evain, from which it will be noted that there are, approximately, 60 bodies in the old cemetery which could be re-interred in family graves in the new cemetery, which has been cleared of timber and which, it is suggested, in fairness, should be fenced in; the Missionary also states that the best time to move the bodies would be this Fall, in view of the fact that some of the coffins have disappeared since last Spring, when water was much higher than at the present time, and he adds that he is going to the Long Point Indian Mission, and, with the help of the Indians, will tag and mark out each grave in such a way that the bodies can be transferred without error, even in the absence of the interested relatives.

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The estimated cost of moving the bodies from the old to the new cemetery is placed at \$850.00, as follows:

Excavation in old cemetery, about 180 c.y.	@ \$1.50	\$270.00
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Fencing in new cemetery.....		100.00
Supplying, say, 30 coffins, rough board boxes		
@ \$5.00 each.....		150.00
Transportation and contingencies.....		60.00
Total.....		\$850.00

That the Acting Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works recommends this matter to the favourable consideration of the Department, and the Deputy Minister advises that the necessary authority be obtained for the expenditure required in this connection;

That this expenditure is a proper charge against the sum of \$55,000 granted by Parliament at its last session for "Maintenance and operation of water storage dams on Ottawa river and tributaries, surveys in connection therewith and settlement of land damages."

The Minister, therefore, recommends that the expenditure of a sum of \$850.00 be authorized in connection with the removal of the bodies from the old Indian graveyard at Long Point, Quinze Lake, to the new cemetery near the present church at Sandy Point.

The Committee concur in the foregoing recommendation and submit the same for approval.

*Chas. Murphy*  
Approved

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6/10/23