

Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6436)

File 877-12, part 3	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Supplies - Accounts. 1940 - 1941
File 877-14, part 1	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Livestock. 1931 - 1940
File 877-17, part 1	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Cadet Corps Band Set - Accounts. 1930
File 877-22, part 1	West Coast Agency - Alberni High School - Tuition Payments. 1934 - 1947
File 877-23, part 1	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Death of Pupils. 1937 - 1945
File 878-1, part 1	Williams Lake Agency - Caribou Industrial School - General Administration. 1890 - 1912
File 878-1, part 2	Williams Lake Agency - Caribou Industrial School - General Administration. 1913 - 1937
File 878-1, part 3	Williams Lake Agency - Caribou Residential School - General Administration. 1938 - 1948

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

No. 159-1-17

Department of Indian Affairs

19

ALBERNI RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

CADET CORPS & BAND INSTRUMENTS.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

Port Alberni, B.C.,
August 6th., 1930.

Mr. Pitts
Prin. Indian School,
Alberni,

Dear Mr. Pitts,

In accordance with your wishes I am submitting the following information re the organization of a band in your school.

Re Instruction:

I have written to ~~the~~ Mr. J. Kyle of the Technical BR. of the Education Dept. to have him confirm by letter that his Dept. will arrange for an instructor to teach the boys the instruments. Once he gives his permission in writing I can arrange to have a man go out from Port Alberni, twice a week to teach them. I could arrange to go myself if no one else chooses as I have already instructed and led three Boys' Bands.

Re Instruments:

Rather than see the boys have ~~if-the-boys-were-to-start-on~~ poor instruments and, if I were to be the instructor, I would sooner see them not begin. I strongly recommend British-made instruments for, beyond a doubt, they possess better material and workmanship than the American-made. There are three British instruments that I think all good bandsmen would be ready to recommend. They are the Hawkes, the Besson and the Boosey. The Boosey is, I think, more popular than the others and a little cheaper in Canada. It is used by most of the good bands in the British Isles. (All British Instruments are hand-made. The different layers of metal are pounded together with wooden mallets and are not so apt to have small air-pockets between the layers as the machine-made instruments. Some of the American instruments look very nice but when one blows them he detects skimpy material. The firms save on material and depend on advertising to sell their goods. Some cheaper instruments have a weak alloy ~~more~~ nearer to copper than they should. They are more easily dented than ~~the~~ dearer

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

Mr. Pitt.

and what is worse, whenever they get warm, the keys jam, because copper has a different expansion than brass.)

(ALL THE ABOVE APPLIES TO THE BRASS SECTION OF THE BAND. A SAVING WOULD BE MADE BY BUYING CANADIAN DRUMS AND FRENCH CLARINETS BECAUSE BRITISH CLARINETS ARE ^MSKY HIGH FOR SOME UNFATHOMABLE REASON.)

French and Italian Clarinets are cheaper and considered exceptionally good.

I have tried to make inquiries from a music store in Vancouver, one in Nanaimo, and one in Victoria. The firm in Vancouver, Copeland and Euper, stated that they could equip the school with any of three makes of instruments made in British Isles and one made in Canada. One of these makes - the Boosey - mentioned above - gives a 15 year guarantee so that the instruments should last twice that long. To give an approximate cost they have made the following quotations on this particular make. They are a very reliable firm, are experts at overhauling instruments and any band equipped by them has the advantage of being able to have an instrument, no ~~matter how~~ matter how badly banged up, quickly overhauled and made to look like new.

Your proposed band should either be a 15 piece band - all brass - or a 20 piece band with fifteen brass instruments and 5 clarinets.

Instrumentation

15 pieces --	(in finish Silver Plated, Frosted Finish)		
	5 Bong Model Cornets (with cases) @	\$143.25	Total \$716.25
	2 Upright Altoes (without " @	\$115.50	" 230.
	(Cases are \$18.75)		
	2 Slide Trombones (with cases) @	\$134.25	" 268.50
	1 Tenor Horn (Case unnecessary)	\$145.50	145.50
	1 Euphonium " "	\$181.50	181.50
	2 Basses " "	\$261.	" 522.00
	2 Drums (1 Bass & 1 snare)		81.00

			\$ 2145.75

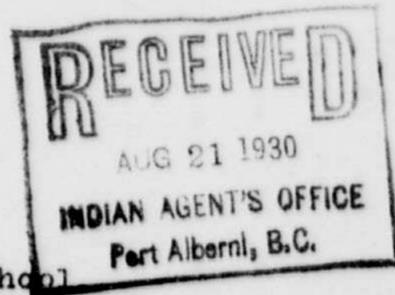
To make it a twenty piece band one would add 5 clarinets to this at an approximate cost of \$500

I remain,

Yours truly,

H. Murray

Prim. Port Alberni School



Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

CANADA

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

OR-COP

Indian Residential School

REV. F. E. PITTS, B.A., PRINCIPAL

Alberni, B. C., August 21, 1930

Dept. of Indian Affairs
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that the Indians, parents as well as children, have often expressed themselves as desirous of having a brass band in the school and also the effort made by the Provincial Educational Department to have musical training in the B. C. schools, I have gone into the matter of cost of instruments and the possibility of an instructor.

I desire to make application to your Department to supply us with the instruments and funds to carry on such a band in our school.

I make the application with some hesitancy on account of the heavy initial cost. However, I believe the money would be well spent and hope the Department may grant our request. I understand that most of the Residential Schools in B. C. have a brass band in them and I am sure it would add to the loyalty of the Indians and children if we had one in our school.

We have twenty boys from twelve to fourteen years of age from whom we could pick fifteen that would do well at training for a band.

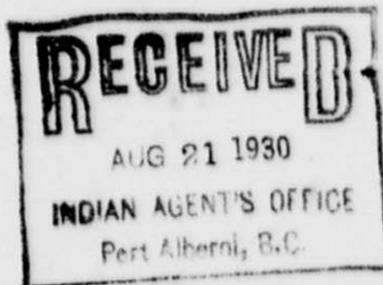
We were informed by the Superintendent of Technical Education, Mr. Kyle, that the Provincial Department would pay 60% of the cost of instruction in the Indian School as well as the Public schools.

I enclose herewith the communication from Mr. Murray, Principal of Port Alberni Public School, who has had considerable experience in organizing bands.

I am anxious to know if your Department will consider favorably such a request and shall be glad to furnish any further information required.

Yours obediently,

F. E. Pitts
Principal



Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

159-1-17

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

305/30



R

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AUG 30 1930
RECORDS

SCHOOLS BRANCH
SEP 2 1930

West Coast Agency,
Port Alberni, B.C.
August 23rd, 1930.

[Handwritten signature]
Sir:-

I have the honour to enclose herewith for the consideration of the Department, a copy of a letter from the Rev, F.E. Pitts, B.A. Principal of the Alberni Indian Residential School relative to the supplying of band instruments to that school by the Department and the payment of 40% of the cost of instruction, in order that a band may be formed of the pupils of that school.

Attached thereto is also a letter from Mr, H.E. Murry, Principal of the Port Alberni Public Schools, giving a detail of the instruments that would be needed and the approximate cost of same, and other information regarding band instruments.

As I have no intimation as to the Department, s policy regarding the supplying of band instruments to Indian Residential Schools and recognizing that the initial cost would be considerable, I can only add that a majority of the Indian boys are naturally musical and I believe would prove apt pupils.

Encs,

Your obedient servant,

Ed. E. Frost

Indian Agent.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

159-1-17

ff
Ottawa, September 2nd, 1930.

Sir,-

I have your letter of the 23rd ultimo, enclosing a communication from the Principal of the Alberni Indian Residential School, requesting that this Department provide the cost of supplying band instruments in order that a band may be formed among the pupils of the school. The communication which the Reverend Principal received from the Principal of the Port Alberni Public School, giving an estimate of the cost of the instruments, was also received.

In this connection, I have to say that it is not the policy of the Department to provide equipment of this nature. We have no funds specially provided for the purpose and, as the appropriation for Indian education this year is limited, the Department will be unable to consider the providing of a grant towards the cost of the band instruments.

Your obedient servant,

A. F. MacKenzie
A. F. MacKenzie.
Secretary.

J. E. Frost
J. E. Frost
Ed. E. Frost, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Port Alberni, B.C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

OR-COPY

FILE NO. 877-17 VOL 1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES
— INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH —

C L O S E D F I L E

FILE NUMBER 877-17 VOLUME 1

SUBJECT CADET CORPS & BANDS

ALBERNI RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

CORRESPONDENCE FROM AUG 1930
TO SEPT 1930

NO FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE
TO BE PLACED ON THIS FILE

NOTE: For subsequent correspondence relevant to the subject matter of this closed file see

FILE VOLUME

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6436, file 877-17, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES

ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES

CANADA

COPY