

Ottawa,
May 21, 1941.

AIR MAIL

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 9th instant enclosing a report from the Principal of the Kootenay Residential School in connection with the fire, also a letter received from Indian Agent Irwin with regard to the same matter, it is desired that you arrange for the purchase of the material required for the re-erection of the carpenter shop. From the attached list you will note that either the Agent or the Principal secured a quotation from the Cranbrook Sash & Door Company. The total of this is \$523.59. It is quite possible that in purchasing the material shown on the attached list you will buy from more than one firm in which case separate purchase orders should accompany the accounts when you submit them for payment.

Yours truly,

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



Major D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner,
P.O. Box 70,
Vancouver, B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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RECEIVED

Ottawa,
May 21, 1941.

AIR MAIL

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of the 16th instant enclosing complete reports regarding the fire at the Kootenay Residential School on April 29, also detailed information regarding tools etc. that were lost, I may say that Indian Commissioner MacKay is being authorized to purchase the material required for the re-erection of the carpenter shop. It is understood that the labour will be done by the school staff and the older boys without cost to the Department. The site of this building should be very carefully chosen and it should be placed as far away as possible from the other buildings in order to minimize the danger from fire.

Commissioner MacKay is also being requested to either visit the Kootenay School or have Inspector Coleman go to the school with a view to making a full investigation of the suggestion for additional fire protection. A letter from the Principal suggests that to provide additional fire protection will involve a very heavy expenditure. In this case it is doubtful if the Department can provide the funds. However, a final decision will not be made until either of the officers mentioned above submits his report.

It is evident from the Principal's letters that considerable could be done to minimize fire hazards at this school and it would be advisable for you to inspect the whole building thoroughly with the Principal and arrange to have the necessary action taken along these lines.

We are re-ordering the lumber for the floors to replace that which was lost in the fire.

Yours truly,



Mr. A. Irwin,
Indian Agent,
Cranbrook, B.C.

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

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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INSPECTION OF THE ST. MARY'S INDIAN SCHOOL
MISSION, CRANBROOK, B. C.

October 25, 1938.

PLASTER OFF WALLS AND CEILINGS.

The plaster is in very bad condition in many places in the School, particularly in the entrances or exits of both boys and girls basement sides. Also sewing room, main dining room, and hall-ways. This in itself is a very bad fire hazard, and should fire break out it would be drawn up through the walls and ceilings through the places where plaster is missing, and run under the floors all over the building before anyone would be aware.

ELECTRIC WIRING.

The electric wiring throughout the school is very old and quite out of date, and has apparently been repaired or altered at different times by persons other than electricians.

Sockets missing in several places and the live wires not taped, ordinary drop cord wiring running through holes in walls and partitions without any protection whatever in the way of insulation of any kind. Floor sockets installed in a poor manner, loose and dangerous. Most of the drop cord wiring is so old that it has perished, the insulation being all cracked.

STOVES, STOVE-PIPES AND OVENS.

The stove pipes in the laundry and drying room are very old and a very bad hazard. The pipes should all be renewed and on account of the length of some, would suggest that they be rivetted so that there will be no danger of coming apart.

In the bakery room there is no protection between the fire boxes of the ovens and the wooden floor. Would suggest that two layers of brick, layed flat be placed the full length and width of the ovens, with a four inch space left at front and sides running clear through the top layer of brick for ventilating purposes, also that some sheet iron or tin be placed on floor in front of fire box doors. At the present time the hot ashes fall out onto the wooden floor.

FIRE ALARM GONGS.

There are several small two inch bells scattered about the building, most of which not even working, and therefore in case of fire of no use whatever.

There certainly should be an up to date fire alarm system installed immediately, as at the present time the lives of the Staff and the children are atstake.

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The British Columbia Fire Marshal Act, under which we work are not satisfied with fire gongs or bells less than 10" in diameter, and where buildings are more than two stories in height, there must be a gong on each floor with a break-the-glass station at each gong.

Attached also is an ordinary electric switch in the Principals office for the testing purposes, and also used when holding fire drills. This saves breaking the glass or removing same when testing gongs.

FIRE ESCAPES.

Panic bolts should be placed on all exit doors, so that in case of fire there will be no chance of the doors being either locked or hard to open. This matter is also compulsory under the British Columbia Fire Marshal Act.

With reference to the suggestion of Reverend Father Collins that a partition and door be placed on first landing of stairway, women's side, might say that if a panic bolt is installed on the door it would pass any inspection, as it would act as a temporary fire stop should a fire break out on the first floor or basement. With this panic bolt, no person could go upstairs at night and yet at the same time would act as a very good escape from fire should it break out upstairs. Door could be left wide open in day time.

HOUSEKEEPING CONDITIONS.

Housekeeping conditions are excellent and cannot be improved.

ENGINE ROOM.

Could be kept a little cleaner, too much oil around the floor. Engine apparently pumping some oil.

Would suggest all oil cans with exception of those absolutely necessary be kept elsewhere.

BATTERY ROOM.

Suggest an opening be made in ceiling of the battery room, as I noticed quite a strong amount of gas generated from the batteries.

GARAGE.

The windows of the garage between that building and the Bakery room should be covered with sheet iron or some metal of some kind. This building also used as the gasoline pump room creates a bad fire hazard and I would suggest the gasoline pump be installed at some safer place.

BARN AND OUTBUILDINGS.

There are some very fine and valuable outbuildings including the large barn and stables, but absolutely no fire protection. Would suggest that standard stand-pipes be

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POOR-COPY

installed someplace near the main pumping machinery and enough fire hose be purchased and attached to stand-pipes to reach these outbuildings.

There is no doubt whatever should a fire break out at the present time not only would the buildings burn, but all the stock would be in danger.

Might say in conclusion, I feel too much cannot be said about some of the items mentioned in this report, especially with regard to the Fire Gongs, Fire Escapes and the Electric Wiring, as each one is a very bad fire hazard in itself, and now knowing the layout of the building I feel that should a fire break out, it might be with terrible consequences.

INSPECTION MADE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th 1938, BY P. ADAMS,
FIRE CHIEF, CRANBROOK, B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 2-10

Dear Sir:-

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th. inst., concerning my report of the Tools and Building Materials that were saved, as well as those that were lost in the recent fire at the Kootenay Indian Residential School.

I had not thought of requisitions when writing that report; but only of complying with the request as expressed in your letter of the 5th for a full and completely detailed statement in triplicate, of the loss sustained.

The report submitted by the Reverend Principal, enclosed with my monthly report was, I felt, so full and complete in every detail of what actually happened at the fire, that nothing more accurate could be written, apart of course, from the credit paid to myself. What actually caused the fire I do not know; the Principal does not know, although it is stated in his report that the Forge in the Blacksmith shop had been used in the afternoon of that day, and that the fire might not have been entirely extinguished. He also states, that a boy was sent to the Blacksmith shop several hours later, where the fire originated, and was slow returning. Inferring that, if the fire was still alive, he might have fanned the flames causing sparks to fall on the floor, which, later, might have started the outbreak. It is all conjecture; no one actually knows, but what we do know is this, had there been proper fire protection at the School, the Buildings could easily have been saved. In this respect, as in others, the Principal's statement is correct, when he insists that a REAL FIRE HOSE WITH PLENTY OF PRESSURE would have saved everything.

May I quote from a statement issued by the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Brigade, to his Worship the Mayor, and members of the City Council. With respect to this fire he states:

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 2-10

-2-

"A very serious fire hazard exists at the Kootenay Indian Residential School; the School itself, a large two storey building, is without adequate Fire Escapes, and exposed to danger from several out-buildings such as barns etc., which are quite near. There is practically no fire protection whatever. The pressure is so low in the Domestic water supply that it is of no use for fighting fire. The situation is very dangerous and should have the attention of those in authority"

So has written the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Department.

There is not a soul in the Cranbrook district familiar with the School, who fails to realize the ever lurking danger of a holocaust. There is grave responsibility somewhere, in the event of a serious fire, for the protection of the Children and the Staff, and yet, in the words of the Acting Chief, a very serious fire hazard exists, and needless to say will continue to exist, until there is sufficient equipment and water power to fight a fire.

The Cranbrook Fire Department sent one man and a Fire Engine. They were not too easily pressed into service, but did good work when they got there. The Provincial Police also turned out with Fire Extinguishers and did their best, which was simply not good enough, to make any impression; without a water supply the buildings just had to go.

If we are to have any protection at all against a recurrence of what happened the other night, I would most respectfully suggest that an agreement should be arrived at with the Cranbrook Fire Department to respond immediately when called, otherwise we would not have a chance, and even with the fullest measure of co-op-

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DEPARTMENT
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INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

from the Fire Department there can be no guarantee of security or safety from the worst that easily could happen, unless dependable pressure to make the best use of fire fighting equipment is supplied.

I enclose herewith itemized statements from the Cranbrook Sash & Door Coy quoting on the Materials required to re-build the Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops, at respective costs of \$523.59 and \$151.50

In addition to this I would point out, as shown in previous reports, about 5000 feet Flooring lost, that had recently been purchased to re-floor the Dormitories; this also, is urgently needed.

The enclosed statements of cost in respect of all materials required to replace buildings burned, are furnished only in the hope that they may be helpful to the Department as a means of supplying accurate information as to the cost of re-building, should they decide to do so.

I/L

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Irwin.
Indian Agent.

Major D.M. Mackay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.
P.O. Box. 70.
VANCOUVER B.C.



Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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15/5/2128

May 21, 1941.

Dear sir:

I enclose herewith report, dated the 17th instant, of Mr. Indian Agent Irwin, regarding the loss by fire of out-buildings and equipment of the Kootenay Indian Residential School, which occurred on the 29th ultimo. The report is not very satisfactory, in that it must be read in conjunction with that of the Reverend Principal of the School, dated the 30th ultimo.

It is observed that both the Indian Agent and the Principal place the responsibility for the loss on the lack of hose and fire-fighting equipment, the Principal stating that both of them had seen this lack and did what they could to have it remedied. In this connection, I would advise that the matter of fire protection for this institution has been the subject of discussion over the past three years, the Agent having the Cranbrook Fire Chief, Mr. P. Adams, make an inspection of the premises on October 14, 1938, a copy of this report being enclosed herewith, most of the recommendations having been carried out, except the installation of panic bolts on exits in the main building, fire door, and placing of stand-pipes and a supply of hose near the outbuildings.

The latter item is of interest in regard to this particular fire and is dealt with on page 2 of Inspector Barry's report of November 13, 1938, as follows:

"I do not agree with the Fire Chief in regard to the provision of standard or any other sort of stand pipes or the provision of any hose for the protection of the outbuildings. The Department is well aware that the system of DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY recommended in one of my reports five or six years ago has been chosen as against a most expensive alternative system. The present domestic water system is giving excellent service. It is quite inadequate in the case of fire fighting for which it was never intended. Stand pipes and hose will only be required when the Department has funds enough to install a new fire fighting water system the plans of which are on file with the Department. I can not recommend that this be done at the present time."

It should also be noted in the Agent's report that he quotes the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Brigade as stating that "The pressure is so low in the domestic water supply that it is of no use for fighting fire", from which it would appear that this source of supply would have been of little value at the time the fire was discovered. There is no evidence on my files of application having been received from the Indian Agent or Principal for hose and stand pipe equipment. Evidently the primary cause of the outbreak was the

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

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May 21, 1941.

neglect of the school employees in not making certain that the forge fire was completely extinguished at the end of the day's operations.

The question of water for fire protection for this school is covered by the Dominion Water and Power Bureau's report of March 4, 1931, where three proposals were submitted, two of which involved a cost of \$27,527.00 and \$21,111.00 respectively, the third being for a domestic supply only, which was subsequently installed at a cost of about \$6,000.00. Whether or not a satisfactory fire pump could be installed in the nearby St. Mary's River at a moderate cost, I am unable to say, without an investigation. The problem would, in part, involve the quick operation of an engine during the very low temperatures prevalent in this locality.

Meanwhile, consideration might be given to installation of a fire door, equipped with panic bolts, on the main stairway between the ground floor and first floor to delay spread of fire to the dormitories at night, also stand pipes and hose on the domestic water system near the present out-buildings, but they would be of use only if the fire was discovered on its immediate outbreak. Mr. Inspector Barry is of the opinion that an additional fire escape should be provided at the rear of the building for which estimates could be secured if funds are available for the purpose.

Regarding the replacement of the buildings, I enclose herewith quotation by the Cranbrook Sash and Door Company of Cranbrook for \$523.50 for the carpenter shop and \$151.50 for the blacksmith shop, a total of \$675.00. Construction would be undertaken without cost for labor as manual training projects. If there is any likelihood that funds can be found for this purpose, competitive tenders for the material would be called for.

It is noted that 5,000 feet of the flooring recently supplied was lost in this fire. This cost the Department \$40 (?) per thousand feet, or a total of \$200 (?) for the quantity destroyed. Whether this can be replaced is also a matter of funds available.

Presumably we will receive, in due course, a requisition for replacement of essential tools destroyed.

I would recommend that when Mr. Warren of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau is carrying out irrigation work provided for on the adjoining St. Mary's Reserve that he be asked to report on the possibility of the installation of an engine and pump on St. Mary's River, with a pipeline to the school, to provide water for fire protection. It is contemplated that this might occupy the same site as that shown by a dotted line and marked "Suction Line Existing System" on the plan accompanying his "Report on Water Supply for St. Eugene School" dated March 4, 1931.

Yours faithfully,

D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

:GR

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To DEPARTMENT OF MINES.
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH.

Quotation for Material Required for Carpenter Shop etc
at Kootenay Indian Residential School.

The Following Prices all F.O.B.the School.

132 Lineal Ft.	2x6 (Sills) #1 Dim.	132'	@\$24.50	3.23
152 " "	2x4 (Plates) Do.	101'	@\$24.50	2.47
21 Pieces	2x4-10 "	140'		
14 "	2x4-12 "	112'		
14 "	2x4-14 "	131'		
40 "	2x6-16 "	640'		
		<u>1023'</u>	@\$24.50	25.06
40 "	2x6-20 "	800'	@\$26.50	21.20
1200 Sqr.Ft.	1x8 #2 Shiplap	1200		
1200 " "	1x8 Do.	1200		
		<u>2400'</u>	@\$23.50	56.40
1100 Sq. Ft.	1x12#2 Common Lbr.	1100'	@\$23.50	25.85
2600 " "	1x6 #1 Common Drop Siding.	2600'	@\$26.50	68.90
1200 " "	1x6 Flooring	1200'	@\$26.50	31.80
9 Squares, #2	XXXXX Shingles.		@\$3.75	33.75
1600 Sq. Ft.	1x4 F.L.V.Joint.	1600'	@\$40.00	64.00
1500 " "	1x4 Do. Do.	1500'	@\$40.00	60.00
12 only.	Window Sashes. 9 Lt. 8x10		@\$2.43	29.16
10 Sacks	Cement.		@\$1.15	11.50
200 Sq. Ft.	1x6 #1 Common	200'	@\$24.50	4.90
200 " 2	1x12 Do.	200'	@\$26.50	5.30
600 Pieces	Chimney Brick.		@\$32.50	19.50
1 only.	Barrel Lime. (200 lb.Bbl.)		@\$4.50	4.50
9 Rolls	Tar Paper.		@\$1.45	13.05
12 Pieces	2x8-14 #1 Dim.	224'	@\$24.50	5.49
6 " "	2x10-14 Do.	140'		
3 " "	2x10-12 "	60'	@\$25.50	5.10
6 " "	2x4-12 "	<u>48'</u>	@\$24.50	1.18
10 Lbs.	5"Common Nails.		@.08 cents	.80
200 " "	2 1/2" Do (2 1/4")		@\$7.55 per keg.	15.10
100 " "	3 1/2" Common		@\$7.25 " "	7.25
30 " "	Shingle Nails. / 1 1/8 / 1.8" or 1 1/4"		@ .12 " lb.	3.60
20 " "	2 1/2" Finishing Nails.		@ .10 " "	2.00
10 " "	2" Do.		@ .10 " "	1.00
10 " "	1 1/2" "		@ .12 " "	1.20
2 " "	1" "		@ .15 " "	.30
				<u>\$ 523.59</u>

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DEPT. MINES & RESOURCES.
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Quotation of Materials Required for Blacksmith's Shop,
At KOOTENAY INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

ALL--F.O. B. THE SCHOOL.

168 Lineal Ft. 2x6 #1 Dim.		168'	@\$24.50	4.12
33 Pieces 2x4-8	176'			
40 " 2x4-12	320'			
14 " 2x4-16	149'	645'	@\$24.50	15.80
1540 F.B.M. 1x8 #1 Common Boards.		1540'	@\$26.50	40.81
968" " " 1x6 #1 Common Siding.		968'	@\$26.50	25.65
2 Rolls Tar Paper.			@\$1.45	2.90
6000 #1 XXX Shingles.			@\$4.75 per M.	28.50
4 only. Sash. 8x10-9 light.			@\$2.43	9.72
2000 F.B.M. 1x6-16 #1 Common.		200'	@\$24.50	4.90
336 Lin. Ft. 2x4 R.L. #1 Dim.		224'	@\$24.50	5.49
50 Lbs. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Nails.			@ .08 pr. lb.	4.00
100 " 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Do.			@\$7.45 " keg.	7.45
18 " Shingle Nails.			@ .12 " lb.	2.16
				<u>\$ 151.50</u>

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INSPECTION OF THE ST. MARY'S INDIAN SCHOOL
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INSPECTION MADE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th 1938, BY P. ADAMS,
FIRE CHIEF, CRANBROOK, B.C.

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

from the Fire Department there can be no guarantee of security or safety from the worst that easily could happen, unless dependable pressure to make the best use of fire fighting equipment is supplied.

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I/L

Major D.M. Mackay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.
P.O. Box. 70.
VANCOUVER B.C.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Irwin.
Indian Agent.



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DEPARTMENT
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MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

PLEASE QUOTE
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I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th. inst., concerning my report of the Tools and Building Materials that were saved, as well as those that were lost in the recent fire at the Kootenay Indian Residential School.

I had not thought of requisitions when writing that report; but only of complying with the request as expressed in your letter of the 5th for a full and completely detailed statement in triplicate, of the loss sustained.

The report submitted by the Reverend Principal, enclosed with my monthly report was, I felt, so full and complete in every detail of what actually happened at the fire, that nothing more accurate could be written, apart of course, from the credit paid to myself. What actually caused the fire I do not know; the Principal does not know, although it is stated in his report that the Forge in the Blacksmith shop had been used in the afternoon of that day, and that the fire might not have been entirely extinguished. He also states, that a boy was sent to the Blacksmith shop several hours later, where the fire originated, and was slow returning. Inferring that, if the fire was still alive, he might have fanned the flames causing sparks to fall on the floor, which, later, might have started the outbreak. It is all conjecture; no one actually knows, but what we do know is this, had there been proper fire protection at the School, the Buildings could easily have been saved. In this respect, as in others, the Principal's statement is correct, when he insists that a REAL FIRE HOSE WITH PLENTY OF PRESSURE would have saved everything.

May I quote from a statement issued by the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Brigade, to his Worship the Mayor, and members of the City Council. With respect to this fire he states:

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH
Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

-2-

"A very serious fire hazard exists at the Kootenay Indian Residential School; the School itself, a large two storey building, is without adequate Fire Escapes, and exposed to danger from several out-buildings such as barns etc., which are quite near. There is practically no fire protection whatever. The pressure is so low in the Domestic water supply that it is of no use for fighting fire. The situation is very dangerous and should have the attention of those in authority"

So has written the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Department.

There is not a soul in the Cranbrook district familiar with the School, who fails to realize the ever lurking danger of a holocaust. There is grave responsibility somewhere, in the event of a serious fire, for the protection of the Children and the Staff, and yet, in the words of the Acting Chief, a very serious fire hazard exists, and needless to say will continue to exist, until there is sufficient equipment and water power to fight a fire.

The Cranbrook Fire Department sent one man and a Fire Engine. They were not too easily pressed into service, but did good work when they got there. The Provincial Police also turned out with Fire Extinguishers and did their best, which was simply not good enough to make any impression; without a water supply the buildings just had to go.

If we are to have any protection at all against a recurrence of what happened the other night, I would most respectfully suggest that an agreement should be arrived at with the Cranbrook Fire Department to respond immediately when called, otherwise we would not have a chance, and even with the fullest measure of co-operation

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE 2-10

Cranbrook, B.C.
May. 17th. 1941

from the Fire Department there can be no guarantee of security or safety from the worst that easily could happen, unless dependable pressure to make the best use of fire fighting equipment is supplied.

I enclose herewith itemized statements from the Cranbrook Sash & Door Coy quoting on the Materials required to re-build the Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops, at respective costs of \$523.59 and \$151.50

In addition to this I would point out, as shown in previous reports, about 5000 feet Flooring lost, that had recently been purchased to re-floor the Dormitories; this also, is urgently needed.

The enclosed statements of cost in respect of all materials required to replace buildings burned, are furnished only in the hope that they may be helpful to the Department as a means of supplying accurate information as to the cost of re-building, should they decide to do so.

I/L

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Irwin.
Indian Agent.

Major D.M. Mackay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.
P.O. Box. 70.
VANCOUVER B.C.



Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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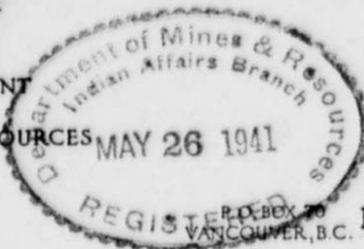
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INDIAN COMMISSIONER
BRITISH COLUMBIA



CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES



INDIAN AFFAIRS
BRANCH

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
NO 15/5/2128
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

May 21, 1941.

Dear sir:

I enclose herewith report, dated the 17th instant, of Mr. Indian Agent Irwin, regarding the loss by fire of outbuildings and equipment of the Kootenay Indian Residential School, which occurred on the 29th ultimo. The report is not very satisfactory, in that it must be read in conjunction with that of the Reverend Principal of the School, dated the 30th ultimo.

It is observed that both the Indian Agent and the Principal place the responsibility for the loss on the lack of hose and fire-fighting equipment, the Principal stating that both of them had seen this lack and did what they could to have it remedied. In this connection, I would advise that the matter of fire protection for this institution has been the subject of discussion over the past three years, the Agent having the Cranbrook Fire Chief, Mr. P. Adams, make an inspection of the premises on October 14, 1938, a copy of this report being enclosed herewith, most of the recommendations having been carried out, except the installation of panic bolts on exits in the main building, fire door, and placing of stand-pipes and a supply of hose near the outbuildings.

The latter item is of interest in regard to this particular fire and is dealt with on page 2 of Inspector Barry's report of November 13, 1938, as follows:

"I do not agree with the Fire Chief in regard to the provision of standard or any other sort of stand pipes or the provision of any hose for the protection of the outbuildings. The Department is well aware that the system of DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY recommended in one of my reports five or six years ago has been chosen as against a most expensive alternative system. The present domestic water system is giving excellent service. It is quite inadequate in the case of fire fighting for which it was never intended. Stand pipes and hose will only be required when the Department has funds enough to install a new fire fighting water system the plans of which are on file with the Department. I can not recommend that this be done at the present time."

It should also be noted in the Agent's report that he quotes the Acting Chief of the Cranbrook Fire Brigade as stating that "The pressure is so low in the domestic water supply that it is of no use for fighting fire", from which it would appear that this source of supply would have been of little value at the time the fire was discovered. There is no evidence on my files of application having been received from the Indian Agent or Principal for hose and stand pipe equipment. Evidently the primary cause of the outbreak was the

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

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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May 21, 1941.

neglect of the school employees in not making certain that the forge fire was completely extinguished at the end of the day's operations.

The question of water for fire protection for this school is covered by the Dominion Water and Power Bureau's report of March 4, 1931, where three proposals were submitted, two of which involved a cost of \$27,527.00 and \$21,111.00 respectively, the third being for a domestic supply only, which was subsequently installed at a cost of about \$6,000.00. Whether or not a satisfactory fire pump could be installed in the nearby St. Mary's River at a moderate cost, I am unable to say, without an investigation. The problem would, in part, involve the quick operation of an engine during the very low temperatures prevalent in this locality.

Meanwhile, consideration might be given to installation of a fire door, equipped with panic bolts, on the main stairway between the ground floor and first floor to delay spread of fire to the dormitories at night, also stand pipes and hose on the domestic water system near the present out-buildings, but they would be of use only if the fire was discovered on its immediate outbreak. Mr. Inspector Barry is of the opinion that an additional fire escape should be provided at the rear of the building for which estimates could be secured if funds are available for the purpose.

Regarding the replacement of the buildings, I enclose herewith quotation by the Cranbrook Sash and Door Company of Cranbrook for \$523.50 for the carpenter shop and \$151.50 for the blacksmith shop, a total of \$675.00. Construction would be undertaken without cost for labor as manual training projects. If there is any likelihood that funds can be found for this purpose, competitive tenders for the material would be called for.

It is noted that 5,000 feet of the flooring recently supplied was lost in this fire. This cost the Department \$40 (?) per thousand feet, or a total of \$200 (?) for the quantity destroyed. Whether this can be replaced is also a matter of funds available.

Presumably we will receive, in due course, a requisition for replacement of essential tools destroyed.

I would recommend that when Mr. Warren of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau is carrying out irrigation work provided for on the adjoining St. Mary's Reserve that he be asked to report on the possibility of the installation of an engine and pump on St. Mary's River, with a pipeline to the school, to provide water for fire protection. It is contemplated that this might occupy the same site as that shown by a dotted line and marked "Suction Line Existing System" on the plan accompanying his "Report on Water Supply for St. Eugene School" dated March 4, 1931.

Yours faithfully,



D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

:GR

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES



155-0-5
INDIAN AFFAIRS
BRANCH

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
NO 15/5/2185
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

P. O. BOX 70 May 23, 1941.
VANCOUVER, B.C.

AIR MAIL

Dear sir:

Replying to your letter of the 21st instant with reference to fire protection for Kootenay Indian Residential School, I would advise that I wrote you in this connection on the 21st instant. No doubt you have now received this report.

As stated, the report covering a water system for fire protection is covered by the Dominion Water & Power Bureau's report of March 4, 1931. However, this deals with gravity systems that are quite costly. A similar need for fire protection was required for the old Alberni Residential School under very similar conditions as exist at Kootenay. A survey was made by the Bureau and covered by their report of December 5, 1935. It will be apparent that their recommendation and cost (approximately \$3,600) would approximate those required at the Kootenay School, subject, of course, to survey.

In regard to entering into an agreement with the Cranbrook Fire Department in order to make their services available to the school, I would point out that the school is about six miles from Cranbrook; that the domestic water supply would not permit them to employ effective fire fighting by hose without pumping from St. Mary's River, which, in my opinion, is too distant for their equipment; and it would probably be found that fire insurance companies would not permit them to leave the town unprotected.

This is the fourth fire that has occurred at this institution, but it is obvious that there is not a great deal more that can be done to protect the property, other than first aid equipment. If the Dominion Water & Power Bureau's Engineer

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

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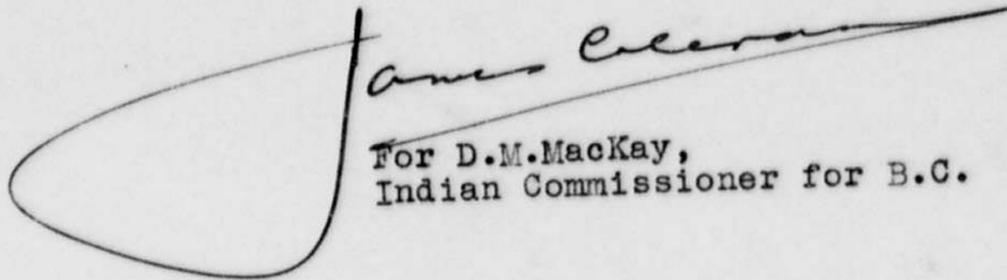
Secretary

-2-

May 23, 1941.

is requested to survey the situation when he is in the locality in the near future, as suggested in my letter of the 21st instant, he could no doubt make a report on the desirability of installing some stand pipes and hose equipment on the existing domestic supply for this purpose, and the cost of same.

Yours faithfully,


For D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

:GR

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

REQUISITION FOR SUPPLIES

File No.
155-0-5

May 21 19 41

This space for use of Head Office only

Requisition No. **39000**

Order No.

To The Departmental Purchasing Agent, Ottawa,

PLEASE FURNISH THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES FOR USE OF Kootenay Indian Residential
School

VOTE 76 Allotment 10-691

SHIP TO Rev. G. Forbes, Principal, Kootenay Indian Residential School,
Cranbrook, B.C.

Purpose for which required Repairs to school

NOTE:—Requisition for non-consumable equipment, state if New Issue or Replacement.
" consumable equipment and supplies use columns 1 and 2.

Quantity		Quantity on hand (1)	Quantity used per month (2)	Unit Price	TOTAL
4800	Ft. B.M. No. 1 edge grained fir flooring				
10	Rolls (500 ft. each) Scutan Paper				
100	Lbs. 2 1/2" finishing nails				
<p>Note: A similar order to the above only in larger quantities was supplied on purchase order 6612. When the material reached the school it was stored in the carpenter shop but before all of it could be used a fire occurred which completely destroyed this building. As a result it is necessary to re-order the above quantities which are required to repair the floors at the Kootenay School.</p>					



I hereby certify that I have personal knowledge that all the above articles are required in the Department and for Departmental purposes only. The expenditure required by this requisition is strictly unavoidable and the public interest will suffer if it is not made.

SIGNED—

[Handwritten signature]

APPROVED—

[Handwritten signature]

Director

Form 37—Req. 193

(SEE OTHER SIDE)

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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RECEIPT FORM

This order number to appear on all packages and invoices

File No. 39999-15-3 BC

Cranbrook Sash & Door Co., Ltd.,

Ottawa, May 23rd, 1941. 19

Cranbrook, B.C.

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

5 Rev. G. Forbes, Principal

Kootenay Indian Residential School, Cranbrook, B.C.,

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	TOTAL
	<u>For repairing school and to replace similar building material recently destroyed by fire:-</u>		
4,800	ft. S.M. No.1, edge grained fir flooring	65.00M.	\$312.00
10	rolls (500 ft.each) Scutan Paper	3.00	30.00
100	lbs. 2 1/2" finishing nails	.10	10.00
			<u>\$352.00</u>

WELFARE DIVISION
IN THE PRESENCE OF
MAY 29 1941

Blue slip sent to Principal May 29/41

Prices F.O.B. Cranbrook, B.C. as per your quotation of 5-3-41 to Indian Agent Irwin.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Rev. G. Forbes, Principal, Kootenay Indian Residential School, Cranbrook, B.C.

Vote 79 Primary 10-691 Date to be delivered: Immediately
 Encumbrance No. 325
 Freight or Express charges paid
 Remarks: (Report shortages, if any)

Branch TO BE RETURNED TO HEAD OF BRANCH Date Signature of Receiver

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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Ottawa,
May 29, 1941.

AIR MAIL

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letters of the 21st and 23rd instant reporting on the loss by fire of outbuildings and equipment at the Kootenay Residential School and commenting on the necessity for additional fire protection. I have carefully noted the second paragraph of your letter of the 23rd instant and in view of the limited amount available in the current year's appropriation it will not be possible to proceed with the project that you mention. I have also noted that you do not recommend making an endeavour to enter into an agreement with the Cranbrook Fire Department.

You should, however, arrange for the immediate installation of a fire door equipped with panic bolts.

I also trust that, as requested in my letter of the 21st instant, either yourself or Mr. Coleman will find it possible to visit the Kootenay Residential School at an early date. At that time you should confer with the Agent and the Principal with a view to minimizing as much as possible any fire hazard at the school. When you visit the school you may consider it advisable to secure some additional fire extinguishers. If so, you may arrange for their purchase.

You have already been authorized to purchase the material required for the re-erection of the carpenter shop. The Purchasing Branch here

Major D.M. MacKay,
Indian Commissioner,
P.O. Box 70,
Vancouver, B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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has arranged for the purchase of the flooring,
paper and nails to replace the same articles
destroyed by fire.

I am also communicating with the
Surveys & Engineering Branch with regard to the
recommendation contained in the last paragraph
of your letter of the 21st instant.

Yours truly,

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

Handwritten initials and a diagonal line:
AM
/ MA

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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Ottawa,
May 29, 1941.

EXD.
A.

Memorandum:

DIRECTOR

Surveys & Engineering Branch

Re: Kootenay Indian Residential
School, Cranbrook, B.C.

I have been corresponding with Indian Commissioner MacKay in connection with providing additional safeguards at the above-mentioned school against the risk of fire. Commissioner MacKay writes to me in part as follows:

"I would recommend that when Mr. Warren of the Dominion Water and Power Bureau is carrying out irrigation work provided for on the adjoining St. Mary's Reserve that he be asked to report on the possibility of the installation of an engine and pump on St. Mary's River, with a pipeline to the school, to provide water for fire protection. It is contemplated that this might occupy the same site as that shown by a dotted line and marked 'Suction Line Existing System' on the plan accompanying his 'Report on Water Supply for St. Eugene School' dated March 4, 1931."

I should appreciate it if you would issue the necessary instructions to Mr. Warren in order that he may be in a position to report fully to this Branch.

W. J. [Signature]
Director.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

155-0-5
INDIAN AFFAIRS
BRANCH

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
NO 15/5/2576
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

P.O. BOX 70
VANCOUVER, B.C.

June 14, 1941.



[Handwritten signature]
Dear Sir:

The Principal of the Kootenay Indian Residential School has requested a plan of the septic tank that was installed at the school in 1911. The records here would indicate that although the plan of the school, which no doubt included the septic tank arrangements, was sent here (See your file 116656/5, dated April 7, 1911) these were returned to the Department, as requested.

It would be appreciated if a tracing could be made of that part of the plan dealing with the septic tank and its location, and sent to the Principal.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten signature: D. M. MacKay]
D. M. MacKay.
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

/AC

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

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5, part 5)

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