

Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6453)



File 884-5, part 2	Kootenay Agency - Kootenay Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts. 1924 - 1930
File 884-5, part 3	Kootenay Agency - Kootenay Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts. (reports) 1930 - 1931
File 884-5, part 4	Kootenay Agency - Kootenay Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts. 1931 - 1936
File 884-5, part 5	Kootenay Agency - Kootenay Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts. 1936 - 1941
File 884-5, part 6	Kootenay Agency - Kootenay Residential School - Building Maintenance-Supplies-Accounts. 1941 - 1944

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA**

~~NO 155-0-5~~  
3  
Department of Indian Affairs

155-0-5<sup>A</sup> CLOSED

~~SEPTEMBER 12-18.~~

Jan 10 1930

884-5

--KOOTENAY--

--RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL--

--BUILDINGS--

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
RECORDS CENTRE

222094

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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POOR-COPY

Kootenay Indian Residential School,  
Cranbrook, B.C. Feb, 10th, 1930.

Mr F. H. Small,  
Indian Agent,  
Cranbrook, B.C.

Dear sir;

Please let me know if an estimate could be made by a competent painter of the cost of calsoining the interior of the school. The walls are in need of renovating, and this could be done to advantage during the summer vacation, if an estimate were made soon and forwarded to the Indian Department.

Yours faithfully,

*J. M. Patterson D.M.S.*  
*Principal*

*4 Estimate*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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155-0-5



R

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



CRANBROOK, B.C.

Feb. 22nd 1930.

Sir:-

Re--Kootenay Residential School.



Enclosed please find a request from the Principal Reverend Father Paterson, for work to be done in the interior of the School.

If the Department will consider this request favorably, I shall be pleased to get quotations on the work from the different firms in Cranbrook.

Your obedient servant,

E.H. Small,  
Indian Agent.

Encls.

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

*Materials only*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

*[Faint, mostly illegible typed text on a piece of paper with a hole punch on the left side. The text appears to be a letter or document fragment.]*

*Cost 18.00*

*I M M [illegible]*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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POOR-COPY

Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly a letter or document. The text is very light and difficult to read. There is a small dark mark on the left side of the page.

*J. M. Macdonald*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

R-COFF

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA



155-0-5

R

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AGENT

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
FEB 27 1930  
RECORDED

*Feb 27 1930  
Cranbrook*

CRANBROOK, B.C.  
Feb. 22nd 1930.

Sir:-

Re--Kootenay Residential School.

As per attached, the Principal, Reverend Father Paterson, has asked for alterations in the heating and plumbing systems of the School.

I imagine from what he told me that the cost would amount to a considerable sum, and I have not asked for quotations on the work up to the present time, however if the Department think it advisable, I will have same done.

Also the principal has asked for 100 feet of Maple flooring for the construction of a blackboard platform in the Junior room. This I would recommend be supplied, as I consider it necessary.

Your obedient servant,

*E.H. Small*

E.H. Small,  
Indian Agent.

Encls.

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

*no funds  
heating alterations  
flooring 100*

SCHOOLS BRANCH  
FEB 28 1930

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

POOR-COPY

155-0-5.

Ottawa, February 28, 1930.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge receipt of your two letters of the 22nd instant, enclosing communications from the Principal of the Kootenay Indian Residential School, relative to the alterations required in the heating and plumbing systems, also requesting to be supplied with 100' of maple flooring, and to provide for the cost of kalsomining the interior of the school.

In reply I have to say that the Department has no funds available for carrying out alterations in the heating and plumbing systems. You may arrange for the purchase of 100' of maple flooring to be used in the construction of a blackboard platform for the junior classroom. It is noted that the cost of this flooring will be approximately \$18. The school carpenter is to perform the labour in erecting the platform. Relative to the kalsomining of the interior of the school, I have to say that you may incur a small expenditure in supplying the kalsomine required, but the labour in carrying out the work is to be performed by the school authorities without expense to the Department.

After you have purchased the flooring and kalsomine, you should forward accounts, in duplicate, properly certified, covering the cost.

Your obedient servant,

*A. F. MacKenzie*  
A. F. MacKenzie,  
Acting Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

*E. H. Small*  
E. H. Small, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Cranbrook, B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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COPY.

THE OTTO ENGINE WORKS  
Manufacturer of  
GAS AND OIL ENGINES,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

December 28th, 1929.

Mr. A. Duc,  
P.O. Box 281,  
Cranbrook, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

Answering yours of the 19th instant we quote you as follows for your 15 H.P. Otto engine #13615.

1 Cylinder and Piston complete consisting of C-3 P-1-2-3-4 S-1752	\$198.00
1 CO 2 Piston Pin Box Crank end 15550-51	\$15.00
1 CO 3 Piston Pin Box Piston end 15552-53	\$12.90
1 CR 3 Crankshaft Frame Box Gear Side 14965-67	\$22.80
1 CR 3 Crankshaft Frame Box Exhaust Side 14966-68	\$22.80

The above prices are f.o.b. Holmesburg,  
Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,

THE OTTO ENGINE WORKS  
"Wm. B. Willis".

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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CANADA

POOR-COPY

COPY

Kootenay Indian Residential School,  
Cranbrook, B.C., Jan. 15th, 1930.

Mr. W.E. Ditchburn,  
Indian Commissioner,  
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

When I took charge of the School here, the former principal informed me that our electric lighting system was defective. On investigating the matter, I found that the batteries do not hold their charge and consequently the engine is kept running about five hours a day. Our engineer informs me that the work done on the engine two years ago was faulty and that many parts of the engine are worn out. He submitted to me a list of the repairs necessary for which I enclose an estimate. Since getting this estimate I find that the governor of the engine is also badly worn, I have not yet secured an estimate of the cost of batteries. If these repairs were approved by the Department they could be installed by our engineer.

I would like to have the opinion of the Department regarding the installation of a turbine system. St. Joseph's Creek runs close to the school and might be used for developing power.

I shall be pleased to hear from you at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

"J.M. Patterson, C.M.I."  
Principal.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**

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COPY.

OFFICE OF INDIAN COMMISSIONER

VICTORIA B. C.

15/5/16698.

February 8, 1930.

Reverend Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 15th ultimo in reference to the lighting system of your School which has become defective.

In reply I would be much obliged if you will kindly advise me as to when and by whom the present system was installed, also what is the type and nature of the same; also, let me know who did the repairs two years ago which you speak of, as there is no information on file here relating to that installation.

As soon as I am in receipt of this information I shall be in a better position to consider the remedial proposals which you have suggested in your letter.

Yours very truly,

WED/HM.

"W. E. Ditchburn"

Indian Commissioner for B. C.

Reverend J.M. Patterson, O.M.I.,  
Principal, Kootenay Indian Residential School,  
Cranbrook, B. C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES**  
**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**

copy

COPY.

Kootenay Indian Residential School,  
Cranbrook, B.C., Feb. 20th, 1930.

Mr. W.E. Ditchburn,  
Indian Commissioner for B. C.,  
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of Feb. 8th, File No. 15/5/16698, I wish to state that our Electric Lighting system is an Otto Engine, 15 h.p. 260 r.p.m. with a Canadian Westinghouse Generator, Direct Current, 10 K.W.--125 volts--80 Amp.--260 R.P.M. There is also a storage battery, 13 plates.

The System was installed when the building was built, but I do not know by whom. It was first installed in the present laundry and was run for about five years without a battery at all. Then Gould batteries were installed and in the spring of 1928 a new set of Delco batteries was installed which are at present in use but are not giving satisfaction as they do not hold the charge very long.

About two years ago the cylinders of the engine were re-bored and a new piston furnished. The piston was manufactured by the Cranbrook Foundry and the work on the engine done by Hanson's Garage, a local concern. The engine was never inspected after the work was finished.

As there are a number of problems needing attention at the school at the present time I would appreciate the favor if you would appoint a special representative to call and make a report on the condition and needs of the school. It would help greatly in my estimation in laying a solid foundation on which to continue the improvement of the Kootenay reserves.

Yours faithfully,

"J.M. Patterson, O.M.I."  
Principal.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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**ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES**  
**CANADA**

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155-0-5



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
CANADA

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 3 1930  
RECORDS

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO  
NO. 15/5/16865.  
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

MAR 4 1930

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,  
P. O. BOX 666

VICTORIA, B.C. February 25, 1930.

Re - Kootenay Residential School.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing herewith correspondence I have had with the Reverend J.M.Patterson, O.M.I., Principal of the Kootenay Indian Residential School, at Cranbrook, having reference to the condition of the electric lighting plant at that institution which is claimed to be in an unsatisfactory condition. The cost of the parts needed will amount to \$271.50 f.o.b. Philadelphia, plus the repairs to the governor. Apparently the engine is an American one, but possibly the new parts might be secured in Eastern Canada by the Department and shipped out to the School and installed by the engineer. This would keep the engine going for some time at least, as it would be impossible to have a report on the advisability of installing a turbine system to take the place of the present engine as the engineers of the Dominion Water Power and Reclamation Service are all engaged at present, and even in the event of a satisfactory report being received, the change could not be made for some considerable time.

*Funds?*  
*OK*  
*in April*  
*A.M.F.*

In regard to the sending of a special representative to Cranbrook to make a report on the condition and needs of the School, I can send Inspector Pragnell to do this if you think it advisable.

Kindly let me hear from you in this matter at as early a date as possible.

Your obedient servant,

Enclosures:-

WED/HM.

*No funds for general improvements but an inspection would indicate what was necessary + a visit*

*W.E. Ditchburn*

W.E.Ditchburn.  
Indian Commissioner for B.C.

Duncan C.Scott, Esq.,  
Deputy Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs,  
O t t a w a.

*Could be secured for 1931*  
*A.M.F.*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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**CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY**

1

**STRAIGHT BILL OF LADING-ORIGINAL-NOT NEGOTIABLE**

Shipper's No.....

Agent's No.....

RECEIVED, subject to the classifications and tariffs in effect on the date of issue of this Original Bill of Lading.

at Toronto Mar 3 1930

from Pease Mfg Co the goods described below, in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned and destined as indicated below, which said Company agrees to carry to its usual place of delivery at said destination, if on its road, otherwise to deliver to another carrier on the route to said destination. It is mutually agreed, as to each carrier of all or any of said goods over all or any portion of said route to destination, and as to each party at any time interested in all or any of said goods, that every service to be performed hereunder shall be subject to all the conditions, whether printed or written, herein contained (including conditions on back hereof) and which are agreed to by the shipper and accepted for himself and his assigns.

The Rate of Freight from.....

to..... is in Cents per 100 Lbs.

IF Special

IF	Times 1st	IF	Class	per														

Consigned to Rev. J.M. Patterson Kootenay Indian Residential School (Mail Address—Not for purposes of delivery.)

Destination Cranbrook Province or State of B.C. County of.....

Route..... Car Initial..... Car No.....

No. Packages	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES AND SPECIAL MARKS	WEIGHT (Subject to Correction)	CLASS OR RATE	CHECK COLUMN
<u>6</u>	<u>Boxes Thermans Extars</u>	<u>126</u>		If charges are to be prepaid, write or stamp here, "To be Prepaid." <u>To be prepaid</u> <u>Send bills in duplicate</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Cartons " Charges</u>	<u>78</u>		
				Received \$..... to apply in prepayment of the charges on the property described hereon.
				Agent or Cashier
				Per..... (The signature here acknowledges only the amount prepaid.)
				Charges Advanced : \$.....

Pease Manufacturing Co. Shipper. P. Stewart Agent.  
Per R. McLean Per.....  
(This Bill of Lading is to be signed by the shipper and agent of the carrier issuing same.)

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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CANADA**

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PACKING MEMO.



**Pyrene Manufacturing Company**  
OF CANADA LIMITED  
1197-1207 KING ST. WEST



SHIP

Rev. J. M. Patterson, <sup>Ontario</sup>  
Kootenay Indian Residential School,  
Granbrook, B.C.

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 5 1930  
RECORDS

SOLD TO

Dept. of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Date Ship'd  
Ship'd From  
Salesman

Our No. **8221-18** Your No. Ship'd Via **Prepaid**

Quantity	DESCRIPTION	Price	Price Total
6	Thermene Extinguishers Complete ✓	24.50	147.00
	Freight Prepaid as per attached receipt		
	Sales Tax Included		

5100-7M-4-29 Shipped 204 Boxes 6 Cartons 6 Crates

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

-copy

Voucher **303**

Vote No. *Sale*

GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA  
Department of Indian Affairs, British Columbia

*Kootenay* AGENCY

To *Messrs. Sainsbury & Ryan,* Cranbrook, B.C.

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
1930	Mar. 6th To replacing doors on fire escapes at the Kootenay Residential School, as per attached.....	\$125 00
Authority #I55-0-5, dated January 10th 1930.		
<p><i>5-4-30</i></p> <p><i>42</i></p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p>		

I hereby certify that this Voucher is correct, that the material has been supplied, the work performed and that the charges are fair and just; also that all expenditure has been incurred legitimately and that each item of the same is a fair and just charge against the Government of Canada.

EXAMINED and found correct.  
*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
Indian Agent

Form No. 11

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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POOR-COPY

# SAINSBURY & RYAN

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

CRANBROOK, B.C. March 6th, 192<sup>30</sup>

Mr. E.H. Small, Indian Agent,  
Cranbrook, B.C.

Dear Sir.

Work done at St. Eugene Mission, Cranbrook, B.C.  
Placing Doors to Fire Escapes, price as submitted in our estimate  
of December 27th 1929. -----\$125.00

Yours truly,

*Sainsbury & Ryan*



Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA**

POOR-COPY

**SAINSBURY & RYAN**

BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

CRANBROOK, B.C. Dec., 27th, 192 9

Mr. E. H. Small, Indian Agent,  
Cranbrook, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

We hereby issue to you a statement for work to be done at St. Eugene Mission, Cranbrook, B.C., regarding Entrances to Fire Escapes:

Present Window to be removed and doors to be installed in same openings and the balance of openings on both sides of doors to be panelled about 3 feet high to match glass in doors, remainder of sides to be glass. Doors to have Wireglass.

Present Circle Transomes over windows not to be removed. Doors to be the height of present Transomes.

Both Entrances to present Fire Escapes to be treated alike.

Price for said work ----- \$125.00

Yours truly,

*Sainsbury & Ryan*

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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**CANADA**

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155-0-5  
R

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
MAR 12 1930  
RECORDS

Letter No.....

Office of the *Architect* *Deputy* Kootenay Indian Agency,  
Cranbrook, B.C. 6th Mch. 19. 30.

Sir,

I enclose herewith Vouchers Nos. 303,  
amounting to \$ 125.00 in favour  
of Messrs. Sainsbury & Ryan, Cranbrook, B.C.  
for Replacing doors on fire escapes at Kootenay  
Residential School.

This expenditure was authorized by Departmental  
Letter No. 155-0-5 dated 10th Jany. 1930

Your obedient servant,

*Ray Jms.*

*E. H. Small*  
Indian Agent.

The Secretary,  
Department of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Form No. 101

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

POOR COPY

*[Handwritten signature]*

March 14, 1930.

Sir,-

Replying to your letter of the 25th ultimo with reference to the repairs required to the electric lighting plant at the Kootenay School, I beg to say that you may arrange to have these repairs made.

It would also appear advisable to have Inspector Pragnell visit this school when convenient and make a report as to the repairs, and the conditions and needs of the school. This report should be made in such a way that an idea can be formed of the probable cost.

Your obedient servant,

W. E. Ditchburn, Esq.,  
Indian Commissioner,  
VICTORIA, B.C.

*[Handwritten signature]*

A. F. MacKenzie.  
Acting, Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

*[Handwritten initials]*

ACCOUNTANT  
MAR 14 1930  
VICTORIA

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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Voucher No. 312

Vote No.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA

Department of Indian Affairs, British Columbia

Kootenay, B.C. AGENCY

To Vancouver General Hospital. Vancouver, B.C.

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
Oct 17th.	To Analyzing water from Kootenay Res School. and Intake As per attached.	124.00
Authority by C.E. Webb Esq Dominion water Office Vancouver B.C.		
	Total.	124.00.

*5-4-30*  
*W*

EXAMINED and found correct.

*A. M. Fench*

I hereby certify that this Voucher is correct, that the material has been supplied, the work performed and that the charges are fair and just; also that all expenditure has been incurred legitimately and that each item of the same is a fair and just charge against the Government of Canada.

*W. Small*  
Indian Agent

Form No. 11

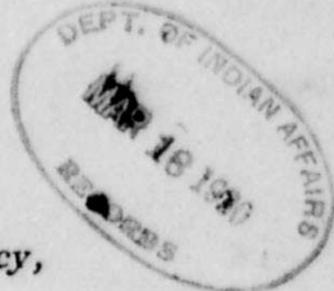
Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

OR-COPY



155-0-5  
R.



Letter No.....

Office of the Kootenay. B. C. Indian Agency,

*[Handwritten signature]*  
March 6th. 1930..

Sir,

I enclose herewith Vouchers Nos. 312.,  
amounting to \$ 124.00. in favour  
of Vancouver General Hospital Vancouver. B. C.  
for Analyzing water. Kootenay Res. School.

This expenditure was authorized by Departmental  
Letter No..... dated.....  
Dr H.W.Hill Report to follow.

Your obedient servant,

*[Handwritten signature: E. H. Small]*  
E. H. Small.  
Indian Agent.

*[Faint handwritten signature]*

The Secretary,  
Department of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

Form No. 101

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

POOR COPY



L.J.C. et M.I.

# Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

— *Provincial House* —

NEW WESTMINSTER, B C.....1930

ten cows and a bull of the Shorthorn breed, suitable for. both milk and beef, he would be able to do much towards restoring the health of the children at the school.

I am told that the condition of the Indians in this district is pitiable in the extreme and the lack of care and food is playing havoc with the children. It is always several weeks after the opening of the school before they begin to recover from their previous lack of food. A nurse for the district and a plenty full supply of milk would work wonders. I am told that some of the Indians on the reserves live in a continual state of semi-starvation. One can readily understand why it is that so many of the children are diseased and that so many die at an early age.

*Submit  
74-185*

Yours very sincerely,

*H. Byrne. Provincial M.I.*

Provincial.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
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CANADA**

*POOR COPY*



59 BLACKWOOD ST.

155-0-5

TELEPHONE 2570

# Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

— Provincial House —

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. 29th March 1930

*Urgent*

*[Handwritten signature]*

Duncan Scott, Esq.,  
Deputy Minister for Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Re. Kootenay Indian School.

My dear Mr. Scott,

I have recently returned from a visit to the Kootenay and I had an opportunity of discussing the school situation with Rev. Father Patterson, the Principal of the School. He has asked me to draw your attention to the following points.:

1. There is a small creek (Joseph's Creek) carrying open sewerage from the city of Cranbrook right through the school grounds about two hundred yards from the house. At certain times the smell from this creek is quite offensive and at all times it is objectionable.

2. The sewerage from the school itself empties into a flat a few yards from the house and flows through the property to the river.

3. The drinking water is now carried by pail from a spring which is close to the place where the sewerage from the School empties onto the flat. The water from St. Mary's is not safe and the Indians of this district make this an excuse for not sending their children to the school. They have no prejudice against the school itself but always talk about the impure water and the bad sewerage conditions.

*Submit  
1550-14*

4. Owing to the tubercular condition of the children from this district, a plentiful supply of milk is absolutely necessary. Father Patterson suggests that if the Department could enable him to buy

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
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POOR COPY



L.I.C. et M. I.

# Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

— *Provincial House* —

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C. .... 1930

ten cows and a bull of the Shorthorn breed, suitable for. both milk and beef, he would be able to do much towards restoring the health of the children at the school.

I am told that the condition of the Indians in this district is pitiable in the extreme and the lack of care and food is playing havoc with the children. It is always several weeks after the opening of the school before they begin to recover from their previous lack of food. A nurse for the district and a plenty full supply of milk would work wonders. I am told that some of the Indians on the reserves live in a continual state of semi-starvation. One can readily understand why it is that so many of the children are diseased and that so many die at an early age.

*Subject  
74-185*

Yours very sincerely,

*H. B. Paul M.I.*

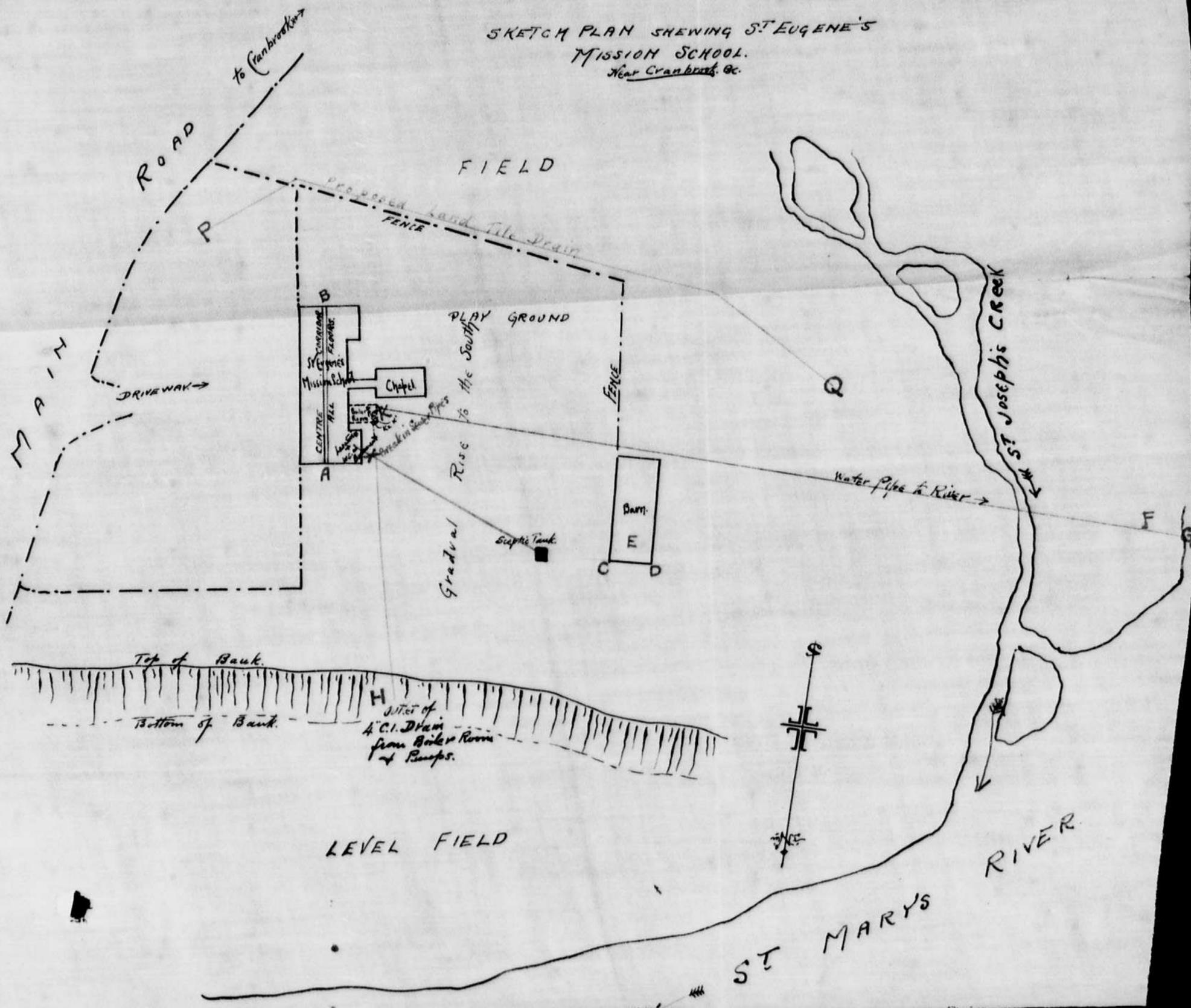
Provincial.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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*OR-COPY*

SKETCH PLAN SHEWING ST. EUGENE'S  
MISSION SCHOOL.  
Near Cranbrook, B.C.



Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6453, file 884-5 part 3)

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CANADA

POOR-COPY



155-0-5.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CANADA

15

April 5, 1930.

Memorandum:

DR. SCOTT.

With reference to the first comment in Father Grant's letter of the 29th ultimo, concerning the water supply of the Kootenay Indian Residential School, I wish to report that St. Joseph's creek, which is a few hundred yards from the main building, carries the sewage from the city of Cranbrook, which is five miles distant. However, no water for cooking or drinking is taken from this creek, and the only dangers are: (1) children drinking from the creek, contrary to orders, and (2) the odour.

It would be a very expensive proposition to divert the creek so that it would flow to the west of the school buildings or to pipe it through school property. In 1923, the Dominion Water Power were asked to investigate concerning the St. Joseph creek pollution. Their report was not received until April 15, 1925, at which time Mr. Johnston stated in part: "Recently, several examinations have been made of the water in St. Joseph's creek, by the Acting Director of the Vancouver General Hospital Laboratories, the result of which appears to show that the danger of contamination from the sewage disposal works appears to be slight." Mr. Johnston offered to have further periodic tests made. In 1924, Inspector Pragnell believed it advisable to consider piping the St. Joseph creek water so that it would not be available for irresponsible children and in order that the odour would be lost; but, in view of the report received a few months later, it was decided it was not necessary to take any action, particularly when improvement was so costly.

Concerning Father Grant's second comment, it is true that the septic tank is near the school, but the drainage is away from all school buildings. The disposal, generally speaking, is the usual arrangement, and if the management is taking drinking water from a spring near the septic tank, it may be dangerous. As far as I can learn, they have had no instructions to discontinue the use of the regular supply.

Father Grant refers to the necessity of carrying drinking water, by pail, from this spring because the water of the St. Mary's river is not safe. In this connection I wish to report that water has been taken from the St. Mary's river right from the

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first installation. The intake is above the confluence with St. Joseph's creek. In 1922, there was trouble with the intake (which is at "G" on the blue print hereunder); but this was remedied in 1923 by the Dominion Water Power Branch, at our request.

In 1928, Mr. Inspector Pragnell questioned the suitability of the water from the St. Mary's river because of "dumping operations of numerous mines higher up the river". Mr. Pragnell adds: "This is very inconvenient and, in addition, adds to the difficulty of preventing the children in hot weather from drinking out of St. Joseph's creek. . . . A possible solution would be placing a pump for drinking water in the building." Mr. Indian Agent Small also wrote in 1928 that a mining and smelting company at Kimberley (approximately 15 miles away) was operating a concentrator.

The Dominion Water Power Branch was written on October 24, 1928, to have one of their engineers investigate the situation and furnish a report and estimate of the cost of providing a reliable source of water supply, which would not be exposed, in future, to contamination. Mr. Johnston replied on the 26th idem that he had asked the District Engineer at Vancouver to arrange for the investigation and report. No report has yet been received from the Dominion Water Power Branch and, as over a year has elapsed, I propose asking them for early attention. Recently, evidence has been placed on the file that the Dominion Water Power officers are making an investigation. We have lately paid an account, in favour of the Vancouver General Hospital, for 124 analyses of samples of water from the Kootenay Indian Residential School.



Supt. of Indian Education.

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Mr. [unclear]  
[unclear]  
[unclear]

April 7, 1930.

Dear Father Grant:

I have your letter of the 29th ultimo, with reference to conditions at the Kootenay Indian Residential School. It is true that St. Joseph's creek is somewhat offensive; but, as late as 1925, several examinations were made of the water. The result appears to show that danger from the up-stream contamination is slight. It would be a very expensive undertaking to pipe the water across our property. Perhaps the odour can be endured and the orders to the children relative to drinking therefrom can be strictly enforced.

The school sewage disposal system is the usual one and the natural drainage is from the septic tank away from the school buildings. I am sorry to learn that drinking water is being carried from a spring which is not far from the septic tank.

oed  
[unclear]

The Department has no evidence that the school's water supply, which is from the St. Mary's river, is really unsafe. Some months ago, when I received reports that the water was unpalatable, I arranged to have the Dominion Water Power Branch investigate the matter. Recently, 124 samples of water from the river have been analyzed, and I expect the report from the engineers at an early

Very Rev. W. Byrne Grant, O. M. I.,  
59 Blackwood St.,  
New Westminster,  
B. C.

- date.

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date. This report, which will be expedited, will deal with the whole question of the water supply and sewage disposal at the school. At a later date, I shall inform you concerning the remedial measures that are necessary.

You will receive a separate letter with reference to the milk supply at the school. The report in connection with the condition of the Indians in the district is being forwarded to Mr. Commissioner Ditchburn, with the request that he have his assistant make a personal investigation.

Yours very truly,

Duncan C. Scott

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