

Ottawa,
August 24, 1939.

Dear Father de Bretagne:

Re: Mink Ranch

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant in which you intimate that the mink ranch established about a year ago at your school has been in no sense a success.

I am today communicating with Dr. Robertson in respect to this matter and I am enclosing, for your information, copy of the letter I have sent forward to the Inspector. The subject matter of this letter, you will note, is self-explanatory. It is my hope that we may be able to dispose of the mink at a reasonable price and thus escape the loss that might ordinarily accrue.

Yours truly,

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

Rev. M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal,
Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School,
Lebret, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Qu'Appelle Indian School
Lebret, Sask.,
September 20th 1938.

Rev. Father Plourde, O.M.I.,
597 McDermott Ave.,
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Reverend Father:

In answer to your letter of the 16th instant, I have carefully read the quotation you made about Mr. Hoey's letter and following the remarks therein made, I wish to call the attention of the Department on the following observations.

All the courses of training referred to were always taught in our school, in as much as circumstances allowed us to do so; for the girls, sewing, crochet work, the tailoring of their own dresses were always in favor, and the proof might be found in the fact that we always obtain for them a great number of prizes at the Provincial Exhibitions.

Aside of this they are good helpers in the housekeeping and they are a big help in the kitchen, the laundry and the different up-keep of the house. Here they are very active and the neat appearance of the school is in great part due to the splendid direction given by the Sisters, very devoted and very particular about that kind of work.

It is now true that the finishing touches making more thorough that training would be improved by the center of Domestic Science which we are actively considering and for which plans have already been made, but in as much as the many managements of a house of this scale allows me to do so.

The graduates of our school, without the pretention of becoming white women, have however in the past already improved considerably the up-keep of their own homes especially when these youngsters have been encouraged by local officials. The unhappy circum-

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

stances very often must have prevented these officials from giving to these people the means of starting on a good footing and this was probably the cause of the falling back of some girls into their rather primitive state.

As in every enterprise, we have to figure with a certain number of "second" products but our work of civilizing these people is a work of generations.

Now for the boys, a very good training was always given in the care of live-stock and agriculture. It is true that we might contemplate some means of giving them more initiative and enthusiasm by interesting directly the boys and girls in the raising of calves, chickens and maybe individual garden plots, but here we are facing a big difficulty which arises from the fact that the children need a contact with the home called holidays, during which time they will abandon the garden work and the fruit of their efforts will be lost.

The results obtained in the past have not to be altogether overlooked. Moreover the first bad impression given by the sight of many failures in different reserves on difficult cases must be analysed before jumping too early to the conclusion that Residential School graduates would have failed on account of a too ineffective training.

We do not think that the old Missionary had thoroughly expected to transform the Indian into a white man and if criticism could find room in this new field of observation, we realize that justice should be given to their efforts and very often their self-sacrifice applied to their compulsory transformation of these people, formerly nomads into settlers animated by ideals of comfort in life and a christian code of morals.

The ideal crowning of our course of training is the settlement of our boys and girls on a little farm where they will receive encouragement, substantial help and this in a new place in as much as possible located away from the parents. The colony near File Hills has given proof in the past of real success when well supervised and intelligently managed in a period of prosperity. Indian families successful in their agricultural projects here were mostly produced by Residential Schools where habits of discipline were given them.

The Qu'Appelle Indian School has produced in the past Carpenters and Blacksmiths who now-a-days, sometimes, do not put in practice their trade for reasons that do not depend on actual Principals or missionaries.

I repeat that we always have to figure with the natural incli-

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

September 20th

nation of Indians to go back to their nomadic life rather than to be under the regular life of the white man.

There is no room in Canada for Indians living like their ancestors, and to my knowledge, the Catholic missionaries have always attempted to adapt them to the conditions that will surround them in the future. It is always a hard task for them because they have to struggle against the natural tendency of human beings to take the most easy way to reach their end.

To conclude, I must assure the Department that, in my rather important school, I intend to work in close cooperation with the Branch of Welfare and Training of our Department, and adapt our teaching to their practical aims. I will try to use all means dictated by my past experience to educate these children in the direction pointed out by Mr. Hoey. I have done my best to keep healthy and even, to often improve the health of these children. We try to make them enjoy that life of discipline by games and sports.

When occasionally we have the chance of keeping some big boys after 16 years of age, we give them the chance of training in elementary work of carpentry and blacksmithing. The conclusion of the experience of the past seems to make us avoid shoemaking and tailoring for the boys, as well as spinning and weaving for the girls because of competitive facilities in low prices for the same kind of goods coming from manufacturing centers.

The only future of our people stands in the settling of our boys and girls, kept away from their family in colonies of small self-sustaining farms, where the first effort of education given in school will be continued by intelligent and devoted officials.

But the sojourn in Residential Schools for youngsters who leave at the brim of their 16 years is very beneficial to them and far more effective than in the Day School where attendance is almost never regular, and will certainly be improved by a practical training crowning their education if made in the way indicated by Mr. Hoey, especially if we have a chance to do it in the conditions enumerated above.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

114-0-11
LEBRET Sask.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

September 12 1939



Dear Sir,

Re- Yours 114-0-11 Aug. 24th and 109-1-5 June 7th -

Kindly allow me to make different remarks about your state of mind concerning this Mink ranch business as well as the judgment you thought necessary to pass on Residential Schools in your letter to Dr. Robertson. I wish indeed to defend myself because I consider that our Mink ranch was in some sense a success. If we consider the ranching point of view and the average "crop" in other ranches it was a success. An average of three kits is a success. That you chose the point of view of teaching our pupils the care and feeding of furbearing animals, as well as creating interest and a more kindly disposition toward the care and feeding of animals in general as you mentioned in your letters, here yet we ascertain that we had a success too. The only point left to be considered is the financial loss involved to the Department.

Nobody could say what will be the price of these pelts or breeders now that the war broke out, but it was no doubt that no loss would have had to be involved to the Department without this last circumstance. But it would have been a loss for the School to have undertaken this experiment because it is a fact recognized by all ranchers that to manage a self-sustaining ranch one has to get the greatest number possible of mink. Father Plourde took advice from prominent Manitoban ranchers who told him so, and if, as you think, we would have been wiser in purchasing some three pairs of mink rather than fifty, I do not see why now it is (as you said) absurd to transfer to other Schools or Indians such a small number to constitute so many experiments on a smaller scale than ours.

The country and individuals where I had proposed the Department to transfer the original stock of our foundation would have been I think a better way of disposing of these mink than to declare our trial a failure. The great cause of our worries lies in the too great cost of food in our part of Saskatchewan, a fact that I had more or less considered before we started but that was however one of my intimate reasons why I reluctantly accepted to make that experiment and secondly because, as I have mentioned above, to have this business profitable or at least self-sustaining, I needed to hire an extra full time hand who would take care of a great number of mink.

The conclusion seems to be that personally I had realized that in our conditions we would never make the ranch much profitable and even probably compel me to operate it at a loss. So, I had submitted to you a scheme by which it seemed to me that the Department would have been able to continue the experiment in a wiser manner. In doing so I had in mind your remark expressed on page 2, letter 109-1-5, saying "If it cannot be made self-supporting, serious consideration will have to be given to the disposal of the mink."

I had accepted the eventuality of losing money in the operation of a mink ranch that in our conditions proved to be impossible to manage otherwise; I had advised the Department in a way that it would be possible to attempt an experiment in the sense that yourself by chance think that we should have started; I think wise yet now to dare to call again your attention upon this last proposition and see if even now after that state of war of our nation, it would not be advisable to contemplate another scheme for the disposal of our original stock than to declare

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

ourselves vanquished . It would certainly be less humiliating than to avow to the Minister a supposed failure .

In the example illustrating my comparison in my letter of Aug.17th, I had pointed out to you the possibility of finding places where our Schools and Indians could keep milk at a very low cost . Experiment on a small scale could be undertaken there without much difficulty it seems to me .

When Dr Robertson would be back from his holidays I will discuss the matter with him according to your wishes , but formerly I would wish to have your opinion again on that matter .

Now , with all the respect that I owe you , and without prejudice for the kind dispositions you never failed to show me , I have to tell you that the remarks you thought necessary to pass on our Schools in your letter to Dr Robertson are in my point of view the conclusion of a premature judgment .

As you seem to give here a strong argument to Dr Robertson against Schools for which he has already many prejudices, I think that you will not object that I personally interfere in the discussion to put my word.

You conclude that the Residential Schools are generally not equipped to "undertake with any hope of success projects other than the elementary instruction of Indian boys and girls in reading, writing & arithmetic." , that "their farming operations are generally in no sense profitable .."

These two statements are no doubt preposterous for the following reasons :

1- Would it be for most of the reserves expectation that the residential schools would procure to the children, that the Department according to the Indian Act is supposed to send to school, these elements of instruction it would already be a success if compared with the results obtained in some reserves by the Day school . If I mention this comparison it is because that argumentation directs exclusively to the choice between these two kinds of school . Many reserves and the nomadic life of many Indians do not leave any margin for another choice . If we are interested in the welfare of Indians we have to realize that the basis of life is education, a word that means far more than a mere teaching of reading and speaking a language. Your special Branch being welfare & training there is no doubt that you wish to see this purpose executed . It had been realized in the past that no other way was left to educate the future of the Indians for the betterment of the race than to take the children from their surroundings and in spite of many difficulties try to change what had to be changed . Owing to the fact that in taking their country we were changing their resources we were bound to exterminate them or to adapt them to new circumstances . It would be too long to make you understand that missionaries had only that purpose in mind , because the betterment of the new life of the Indian was at the same time doing a parallel result in their soul. It might seem to a newcomer into that work that the result was not equal to what could be expected and that apparently mistakes were made in that line , but experience will teach him that if it is good to be sometimes progressive , it is dangerous to be too premature in one's judgment . That kind of work is a slow work and a work of generations and sometimes of assimilation . For your own edification may I be permitted to refer you to a copy of a letter sent a year ago to F.Plourde . In it you will see what we consider to have done on behalf of preparation of our children to their future life in the reserves.

-2- It is a fact that most of the farms owned by White farmers did not bring much profit . Today after the economic problems of the nation farmers are becoming slowly but surely proletarians whose losses are absorbed by the Commonwealth . And when these farms are rented they often do not bring back any yield to their owner because in many cases of these last years, when they were not well situated they were giving only to their manager a profit comparable to simple wages , when they had not to be sold for taxes to no buyer ...Now farm operated by Residential school is not there for the mere purpose of bringing profit . It is there as was my Mink ranch for the purpose of teaching the children habits of working , ways of doing it etc... The Auditor's report cannot always show the good and profitable

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

side of the School farming operation . For instance the value of the by-products of the farm that help for reducing the cost of food etc...

- 3 - If the Indian Act would be effectively put in force in details that would uproot some bad habits of the Indian wards, and if some change would be made to prevent bad conduct in the wedlock , there is no doubt that the postscholar problems would be solved by the very fact that discipline and morality would exist in the families where our children are supposed to go back . This problem is not the problem of the residential schools and consequently could not be blamed to not adapting themselves to the future surroundings of their graduates . But however here is arising the question : Shall we attempt to better the Indian problem or shall we be satisfied with half-measures and blame indiscriminately those who devote themselves with encouraging results (for those who have the time to wait) to the welfare and training of the Indian Youth ?

Elementary instruction , better knowledge of their duties and obligations , better health , knowledge of discipline in as much as their discharge allows them to have , knowledge in some art as drawing , music etc... , knowledge for girls of housekeeping science and for boys of some habits of working all this for children leaving at the brim of their youth . Such is a gross enumeration of quite a change in children taken from the wilderness and they constitute quite an asset for those in charge of continueing that work in the time of their whole life , since the organization of the Indians' life is the share of the Department in hands of whom is trusted the care of the Queen's wards.

Yours obediently ,

M. de Bretagne
om i
Rev. M. de Bretagne O.M.I
Principal.

To R.A Hoey
Sup. Welfare & Training
Indian Affairs Br.
OTTAWA.

1 encl.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Ottawa, September 14, 1939.

Dear Father de Bretagne:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, in which you ask the Department to reconsider the desirability of distributing the mink now at your school to a number of other residential schools in the prairie provinces.

A few weeks ago I received a request from Mr. A. G. Hamilton, Inspector of Indian Agencies, province of Manitoba, for the establishment of a number of mink ranches at residential schools in Manitoba. This request was due, no doubt, to the pressure exercised upon the Inspector by mink ranch owners in Manitoba, who were anxious to dispose of mink at a good price for breeding stock. I intimated to Inspector Hamilton that we had at Lebret a number of mink that we were anxious to dispose of, to the greatest possible advantage. I did state, however, that in my judgment it would be almost impossible to make a success of a mink ranch at a residential school. I take the position that the Lebret school is one of the most efficient, if not the most efficient, in the Dominion, and, if the mink ranch under the direct personal supervision of yourself could not be operated successfully at the institution, there is little chance of it being a success at other schools. However, I would have no serious objection to the transfer of a few of the mink to one or two residential schools in the prairie provinces that might be selected by Dr. Robertson and Inspector Hamilton. This transfer would have to be made on the distinct understanding that the school receiving the mink

would -

Rev. M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal,
Qu'Appelle Residential School,
Lebret, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

- 2 -

would become responsible for the construction of the pens and any other incidental expenses that might arise. In view of the war conditions now confronting us, there is no money in this Department at the present time, nor is there likely to be any in the immediate future, for the promotion of such projects.

I am sending forward a copy of this letter to Dr. Robertson.

Yours very truly,

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

RMA

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES



CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES



File 315-11A

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

Regina, Sask., Sept. 26, 1939.

Dear Sir:

Reference your 114-0-11 of August 24.

I regret to report that, owing to recent work as well as to the fact that for a couple of weeks I wasn't very well and able to cover as much ground as I should have, I did not get an opportunity to visit the Lebre School with reference to Mink until yesterday when I discussed the matter fully with Father de Bretagne. The Principal has gone to a great deal of trouble and to considerable expense in fitting out and establishing this Mink Ranch. His increase has been equalled to the records of the best commercial ranches. Consequently he has demonstrated that Mink Farming can be carried on successfully under his personal supervision. It isn't through any fault of his that the project has not proved a financial success but, due to the fact that he has to have a man especially for that purpose and the high cost of food.

I have paid considerable attention to Fur Farming as I have a number of friends who have been engaged in it for years both in the West and in the East. It is a business that requires a great deal of study and strict personal attention to make it a financial success under present conditions. Only recently I was talking to a friend of mine from Lloydminster who has been conducting a Fur Farm of both Fox and Mink for some years and they informed me that it is only by giving his strict personal attention and watching all expenditures very carefully that they are able to make a profit, they also state that with good stock and the closest

Mr. R. A. Hoey,
Supt. of Welfare & Training,
Department Mines & Resources,
Indian Affairs Branch, Ottawa.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

supervision their profit is not more than \$5.00 a piece, at present prices ~~are deferred~~.

In considering what action should be taken with regard to these Mink, I think the first problem we have to consider is, will the ultimate benefit to the Indian warrant the expenditures necessary to continue the Ranch, personally I do not believe it will as stated before Fur Farming demands constant care and attention. We find it very difficult to get the Indian to milk cattle, they do not want to be tied down. We might possibly find an Indian here and there who would do this, but, ~~that~~ the few successes would not compensate for the expenditure in the great number of failures we would have, I am of the opinion that we should confine our efforts in Fur Farming to Beaver and Rats. These do not require constant supervision, they rustle for themselves and we have found that where a Band has Rats or Beavers on their Reserves they will protect them each member becoming a Game Guardian to see that other members of the Band do not destroy them.

With regard to transferring a number of these Minks to other schools at points where food would be cheaper, I entirely disagree as these schools would be in the North where we have very little supervision of the Indian except right at the School and to operate a Ranch at a School for the teaching of these Indians Fur Farming, with the establishing of them in that business after they left school would, in my opinion, simply be a waste of money. The Indian of the North moves around much more than the Indian of the South, they would not be tied down continually in one place consequently, would not give the attention necessary. I am strongly convinced that any efforts that are made to get the Indian to take up Fur Farming should be made in our Southern districts where the Indian no longer traps and has more or less accustomed himself to staying at home. I am also convinced that the time is not yet ripe to do this in view of these circumstances, the fact that we are now at war ~~which~~ will, no doubt, greatly reduce the present price of fur, I do not believe that we would be warranted in making the expenditure necessary to continue this Ranch at Lebret and if we cannot hope to make a success of it there with, I think, the ablest and most competent Principal in the Dominion of Canada, I fail to see how we could make a success of it elsewhere. I have talked this matter over with Father de Bretagne and, I think, he is of the same opinion as myself, that we should as soon as the furs ^{are} prime, pelt the stock on hand and close the Ranch unless in the meantime we should be able to find

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

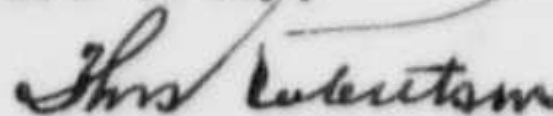
buyers for them which is very improbable as I do not think anyone will go into Mink, or increase their stock by purchasing while this war is on.

I did not discuss with Father Bretagne the matter of allowing him the increase for the purpose of recuperating his personal expenditures but, I think it should be done as he has devoted a great deal of time and attention as well as being out considerable money in the project.

Re your remarks that you ^{have} ~~will~~ be forced to the conclusion that our residential schools, with one or two exceptions, are not equipped to undertake with any hope of success projects other than the elementary instruction of Indian boys and girls in reading, writing and arithmetic. I am in full accord with you in the opinion. I am also strongly of the opinion that the Day Schools will do much more in the solving of our Indian problem than the Residential Schools, at the same time I am satisfied that much more can be done in our Residential Schools than is being done at present. For example at Lebre School yesterday I visited a building that they had fitted up for the purpose of instructing the girls in Domestic Science. This building is ~~completely~~ furnished with furniture such as any Indian could purchase. They have a cook stove, cupboards, wash tubs, wash boards, irons for heating on the stove, etc. These girls are taught how to cook, bake, wash, iron and carry on the work just as they should in their own home. They have a nice Dining Room and I had the pleasure of having lunch there yesterday, prepared and served by these girls. If this work was carried on in our other schools and the boys given the same instructions they are receiving there in Manual Training, Agriculture, etc., more of their time given to this work and less to higher education, I think the girls and boys would leave the school much better prepared for life on the Reserve than under the program now being carried on by most of our other residential schools.

If we could get a few more Principals like Father de Bretagne, I think, a great improvement could be made for the benefit of all.

Yours truly,



Thos. Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies.
Saskatchewan.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

EXD.
A.

Ottawa, September 30, 1939.

Re: Mink ranch - Lebret School

Dear Sir:

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th instant and to thank you for the information contained therein. The views you express are very much in accord with my own, in respect to the operation of mink farms at Indian residential schools.

I am still of the opinion, however, that a certain amount of misunderstanding still exists in your mind and in the mind of the Principal in respect to the purpose for which this mink ranch was established. In this regard, may I again refer you to the second paragraph of my letter of August 24, 1939. The thought in establishing the ranch was the feeding and care of these animals to develop a tendency in the Indian pupil to be more kindly disposed toward animals in general. It was never our thought or intention that pupils graduating from Indian residential schools should go in extensively, if at all, for mink farming.

I am disposed to think, also, that some misunderstanding exists at Lebret with respect to the feeding of these animals. There are large mink ranches comparatively close to Ottawa, and an official of the Department, who retired a year or two ago, has been operating a successful mink ranch in the Gatineau country. I have visited a number of these ranches and the men in charge inform me that the cost of the food supply is comparatively insignificant. They smiled when

I informed -

Dr. Thos. Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
R e g i n a, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

I informed them that horse flesh was purchased for the mink at Lebret. Most of them attributed the remark to my Irish humor and asked me how many horses mink usually killed and devoured in their natural state. In any event, I do not know that any good purpose can be served at this date in reviewing the factors that have contributed to the non-success of the project. It is not at all likely that we shall make a similar experiment at any time in the immediate future.

You are authorized to proceed with the disposal of these mink in such a manner that the loss will be kept down to the lowest possible figure. I concur in your recommendation that the increase that has taken place should be allowed the Principal for the expenditures he has already made in the operation of the ranch.

I was interested in your reference to the Model Indian Home, operated by the girls at Lebret. A number of Indian schools have adopted such homes and there is no reason whatever why the principals of other schools in Saskatchewan should not follow the example of Lebret in establishing such a home for the training of girls. In view of war conditions, of course, expenditures will have to be kept very low.

Yours truly,

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

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

114-0-11

114-0-511 (2)

File

Ottawa, December 19, 1939.

Reverend Sir:

I am enclosing herewith, for your information, copies of certain correspondence relating to the operation of the mink farm at the Morley U. C. residential school.

I am sending forward copies of this correspondence to Father Plourde and Inspector Robertson.

May I, on behalf of the members of the staff and myself, express the hope that you and your associates will spend a very enjoyable Christmas and that the New Year ahead of us will be for you successful in every sense.

Yours very truly,

Encl.

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

Reverend M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal,
Qu'Appelle Indian Residential School,
Lebrét, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

LEBRET SASK 114-0-11
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
December 26 th 1939

Dear Sir ,

Re- Yours Dec. 19 th 1939 -

I have received the correspondence you mentioned therein and beg to submit to your kind consideration that the remarks you make to Dr Robertson are in the correct sense . A mink ranch should start in a small way and operated under competent management and then could be measurably successful, if the fur business is normal.

Our ranch experienced the drawback of the fur business at large . It was successful , our average being 3 by female . Their yield would have been extremely good because they were of a good strain .

Now , their feeding cost was lower than the one experienced on the Morley U.C Residential School . Our total cost of feed amounts to \$ 852.63 for an initial stock of 50 mink raised to the 126 figure in Spring- amounting to 37740 daily rations - what puts our daily ration of food to 2,26¢ in other words \$ 8.24 a year , a saving of 76 ¢ on the Morley feeding cost of \$ 9.00 .-with the same kind of food .

I intend to submit to you soon a general report on the operation of our mink ranch as soon as we will get the return on our pelts trusted to the Hudson Bay Co for sale You will judge by yourself at the reading of the figures that we could not make any money in the bad year in which we started . We have indeed to figure with the wages of the labour employed at the management of that ranch as Inspector Schmidt himself is mentioning in his report, as well as some other indispensable expenditures .

With the collapse of the fur market you will easily imagine that more profitable investment of money than to bury one's scarce funds in a business that with proper management costs 2 dollars for each dollar invested and collected after the operation, could be made .

In spite of this apparent failure I take opportunity of this letter to thank you for having trusted me to experience this branch , feeling well that in reading my answer you will realize that no effort was spared by us for a success of the Minister's plan to improve our Indian self supporting problem .

Yours very obediently ,

M de Bretagne

Rev. M de Bretagne O.M.I
Principal .-

A.R Hoey
Super.of Welfare & Training
Indian Affairs Branch
Depart. of Mines & Natural Resources
OTTAWA .

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

EXPENSES MADE ON BEHALF
of the MINK RANCH
at the QU'APPELLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

FOOD : November 1939 :

United Grain Growers : Mineral	\$ 6.50
Red River Fur Ranch : Bone meal etc..	8.75
Meat	55.30
Vegetables	8.00
December 1939	
Meat	55.30
Canada Packers .Fish frozen	13.75
N January 1939 to Dec.1939	
N.Andersen - Horse meat	70.15
Meat	122.50
City Flour	3.98
A.Wrec. Breadmeal	7.00
Isid.Blondeau- Horsemeat	18.33
N.Andersen .. do.....	31.08
C.N.R.	3.73
C.N.R.	8.60
N.Andersen Horse meat	24.32
C.N.R.	9.96
N.Andersendo.....	69.96
C.N.R.	28.65
C.N.R.	4.42
Farmers do -.....	10.75
N.Andersen	68.70
C.N.R.	15.32
Mc Neill .. do -	24.00
Joe Desjarlais Rabbits	4.07
Bedel . Horse	8.00
C.N.R.	3.68
Victor Fox Food	15.75
N.Andersen	60.08
Mc Lennan	4.68
C.N.R.	11.64
V.Parisian,Horse	8.00
N.Andersen	35.00
Alex Desjarlais Rabbits	4.65
-do do - -do-	4.85
C.N.R.	2.40
Alex Desjarlais	4.42
Victor Fox Food	26.25
Total	<u>852.63</u>

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

2 - Exp.on Mink Ranch (Followed)

INSTALLATION :

Training of man and 2 boys :

Exp. relat.		
Board St Norbert ...	\$ 45.00	3 weeks at \$ 5.00 each
2 trips to Wpg ...	60.00	
Association fur breeders	5.00	
License-game commis.	5.00	
Wye, Jackson Co Insur.	15.00	
Fur Trade Journal	4.00	
Security Lumber	26.00	
Fur Ranch Supply Co	35.95	
J.H Ashdown Co	56.63	
Wages .Carpenter.....	75.00	
	<u>\$ 327.58</u>	

UPKEEP :

Salary of Manager 14 M.	840.00
Dr Hewitt Vet.	10.00
Teleph. long distance	15.82
Export permits	3.00
Adds	7.00
	<u>\$ 875.82</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES :	852.63
	327.58
	875.82
	<u>\$ 2056.03</u>

RECEIPTS :

Feb.23	Soudack Auction Co Ltd	
	2 mink	\$ 15.52
May 16	Soudack	
	7 Mink	\$ 35.43
Dec. 2	J.C Crook	
	2 Mink	24.00
	1 pen	6.00
-do -	N.Janpolsky	
	2 mink	24.00
-do -	S.Naemark	
	5 pens	15.00
	13 mink	130.00
-do-	M.Pece	
	7 mink	84.00
-do-4	S.Neemark	
	2 mink	20.00
Dec.-	Mackey B	
	total..	<u>353.95</u> to report

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

3-

Exp.on Mink Ranch (Cont.)

Receipts : forward : 353,95

Dec. 3 rd 1939

Mackey B.

Batty Fr.: 5 mink 55.00
2 pens 10.00

Dec. 4 th

Lumber Y.Hubbard

2 mink exc. 6.00
2 - sold 24.00

Dec. 12

J.C Crook

2 mink 24.00
Hanson 1 - 12.00

36 mink \$ 484,95

Jan. 13 90 pelts sold by the Hudson Bay Co
through LAMPSON FRASER & HUTH Inc.
on New York -

Payment promised for the end of
February \$ 497.56

Great Total : \$ 982,51

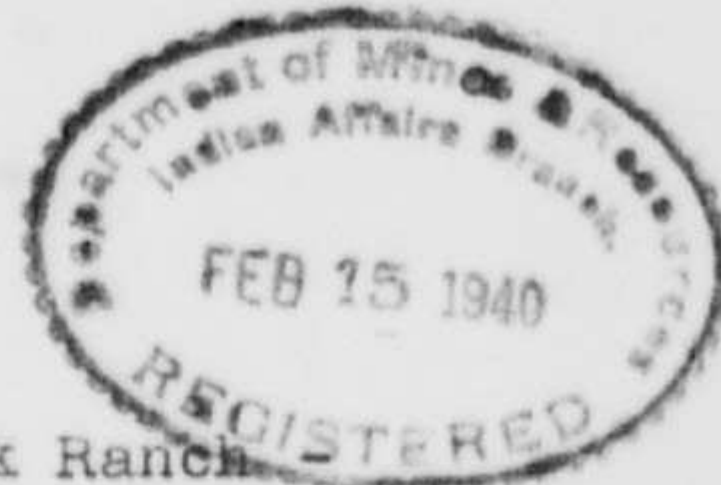
Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

114-0-11
LEBRET SASK
INDIAN RES. SCHOOL

February 12 1940

Mr. H. J. [unclear]
Dear Sir ,



Re- The enclosed report- Mink Ranch

I beg to submit to you for your kind consideration the report of our expenditures for the management of our Mink ranch .

Following my letter Dec. 26th 1939, in which I drew a comparison between the cost of feed at the U.C Morley School and ours, I wish to call your attention upon the fact that our management was not successful on the point of view of profits.

As I cannot share the responsibility of that loss due in great part to the adverse conditions met with , particularly the market suddenly failing on account of the European war, I would ask you if there would not be any possibility for me to keep the proceeds of the ^{whole} sale in reimbursement of the loss sustained in the operation of the ranch ; as you suggested to Dr Robertson in your letter dated August 24th , for the increase of the ranch .

In that letter indeed you gave order to Dr Robertson that the mink purchased by the Department had to be sold to the best advantage and the money returned to the Department, and that the increase be given to the School to compensate our loss.

Now , Dr Robertson , after his visit to our ranch authorized me on Oct. 11th to dispose of these mink . After advertizing , on his advice I tried to sale some mink for breeding purpose, but customers were scarce and very cautious on account of war conditions and poor prospects for the market . Consequently I had to accept what I could secure and I got for them an average price of \$ 11.00. It looked bad, but I expected that the pelt market would yield better, especially on account of the encouraging remarks made by visitors included the Inspector appointed by the Department of Natural Resources of Saskatchewan, on the good quality of our mink .

But , it was written that our experiment was doomed to unsuccess. Winter practically did not exist in our beautiful Valley and unhappily the pelts seemed to take time to "prime" .

The latest possible in December we started to

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

2 -

pelt in a way to arrive on time on New York market for the mid January sale , supposed to be a good one .

Here again , no chance , we yielded around 497.00 for 90 pelts , by the report of, Lampson , Fraser & Huth a good firm of Montreal to which we were directed by the Hudson Bay Co , that found our pelts of a good grade .

I wish that these explanations will show to you how hard it is for me to present such a report after so many efforts made by the Department and by the School . Like I told you already I am proud to have been chosen for that experiment but, today , I have to add that I expect some token of your appreciation in helping us by the authorization to keep the sum that will soon be into my hands .

I remain

Yours very obediently ,

M. de Bretagne ^{o. n. y. i.}

To R.A.Hoey
Superintendent of Welfare & Training
Indian Affairs Branch
Ottawa .

Rev. M de Bretagne
Principal

Encl.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Missions Indiennes des Pères Oblats

114-0-11
Oblate Catholic Indian Missions

COMITE-COMMITTEE
PRÉS. : Mgr A. TURQUETIL, O.M.I.
VICE-PRÉS. : R. P. G. MARCHAND, O.M.I.
PROVINCIAL, MONTREAL
SECRÉTAIRE-TRÉSORIER
S. E. Mgr J. GUY, O.M.I.
SECRETARY-TREASURER
SURINTENDANT GÉNÉRAL
R. P. J.-O. PLOURDE, O.M.I.
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT
619, MCDERMOT AVENUE, WINNIPEG, MAN.
ET AND
UNIVERSITÉ OTTAWA-UNIVERSITY
ONT.



L.I.C. et M.I.
BUREAU DU SURINTENDANT GÉNÉRAL
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

MEMBRES-MEMBERS
S. E. Mgr G. BREYNAT, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr E. BUNOZ, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr M. LAJEUNESSE, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr U. LANGLOIS, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr J. L. COUDERT, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr A. CLABAUT, O.M.I.
S. E. Mgr H. BELLEAU, O.M.I.
BAIE JAMES, ONT.
R. P. J. SCANNELL, O.M.I.
PROVINCIAL, NEW WESTMINSTER
R. P. E. LAMONTAGNE, O.M.I.
PROVINCIAL, MANITOBA
R. P. H. ROUTHIER, O.M.I.
PROVINCIAL, ALBERTA-SASKATCHEWAN

Ottawa, Ont. February 15th 1940.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Ottawa.

Attention Mr. R. A. Hoey.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of a letter from Father de Bretagne in which he requests me to ask that the proceeds of the sale of the minks of his ranch be allotted to him in full. He wishes to use these funds for the purpose of building an addition to the school barn. He informs me that this addition is very necessary. Years ago, when the school barn was erected less pressure was brought to bear on the school management to give fresh milk to all the school pupils. However, nurses and doctors insist now that all the children be given a fair supply of milk every day. In order to do this, the Lebreton Principal has had to keep more milk cows than formerly and it is necessary therefore to enlarge the school barn.

Hoping that you will favorably consider
Father de Bretagne's request, I remain,

Yours very truly,



Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

- C O P Y -

EXPENSES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE MINK RANCH AT
THE QU'APPELLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

FOOD:- November, 1938:

United Grain Growers: Mineral	6.50
Red River Fur Ranch: Bone meal, etc..	8.75
Meat	55.30
Vegetables	8.00

December, 1938:

Meat	55.30
Canada Packers: Fish, frozen	13.75

January 1939 to December 1939:

N. Andersen - Horse meat	70.15
Meat	122.50
City Flour	3.98
A. Wrec. Breadmeal	7.00
Isid. Blondeau - Horsemeat	18.33
N. Andersen do	31.08
C. N. R.	3.73
C. N. R.	8.60
N. Andersen Horsemeat	24.32
C. N. R.	9.96
N. Andersen Horsemeat	69.96
C. N. R.	28.65
C. N. R.	4.42
Farmers do	10.75
N. Andersen	68.70
C. N. R.	15.32
McNeill do	24.00
Joe. Desjarlais Rabbits	4.07
Bedel Horse	8.00
C. N. R.	3.68
Victor Fox Food	15.75
N. Andersen	60.08
McLennan	4.68
C. N. R.	11.64
V. Parisian, Horse	8.00
N. Anderson	35.00
Alex. Desjarlais Rabbits	4.65
do do do	4.85
C. N. R.	2.40
Alex. Desjarlais	4.42
Victor Fox Food	26.25
	\$ 852.63

INSTALLATION:- Training of man and 2 boys:

Exp. relat. Board St. Norbert -	
3 weeks at \$5.00 ea ch	45.00
2 trips to Wpg.	60.00
Association fur breeders	5.00
License-game commis.	5.00
Wye. Jackson Co. Insur.	15.00
Fur Trade Journal	4.00
Security Lumber	26.00
Fur Ranch Supply Co.	35.95
J. H. Ashdown Co.	56.63
Wages Carpenter	75.00
	327.58

UPKEEP: Salary of Manager 14 M.	840.00
Dr. Hewitt Vet.	10.00
Teleph. long distance	15.82
Export permits	3.00
Adds	7.00
	875.82
	\$2,056.03

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

- C O P Y -

LEBRET, Sask.,
Indian Res. School,

February 12, 1940.

Dear Sir:

Re - The enclosed report - Mink Ranch

I beg to submit to you for your kind consideration the report of our expenditures for the management of our Mink Ranch.

Following my letter Dec. 26th, 1939, in which I drew a comparison between the cost of feed at the U. C. Morley School and ours, I wish to call your attention upon the fact that our management was not successful on the point of view of profits.

As I cannot share the responsibility of that loss due in great part to the adverse conditions met with, particularly the market suddenly failing on account of the European war, I would ask you if there would not be any possibility for me to keep the proceeds of the whole sale in reimbursement of the loss sustained in the operation of the ranch; as you suggested to Dr. Robertson in your letter dated August 24th, for the increase of the ranch.

now || In that letter indeed you gave order to Dr. Robertson that the mink purchased by the Department had to be sold to the best advantage and the money returned to the Department, and that the increase be given to the school to compensate our loss.

Now, Dr. Robertson, after his visit to our ranch, authorized me on Oct. 11th to dispose of these mink. After advertising, on his advice I tried to sale some mink for breeding purpose, but customers were scarce and very cautious on account of war conditions and poor prospects for the market. Consequently I had to accept what I could secure and I got for them an average price of \$11.00. It looked bad, but I expected that the pelt market would yield better, especially on account of the encouraging remarks made by visitors included the Inspector appointed by the Department of Natural Resources of Saskatchewan, on the good quality of our mink.

But, it was written that our experiment was doomed to unsuccess. Winter practically did not exist in our beautiful Valley and unhappily the pelts seemed to take time to "prime".

The latest possible in December we started to pelt in a way to arrive on time on New York market for the mid January sale, supposed to be a good one.

Here again, no chance, we yielded around \$497.00

for

R. A. Hoey, Esq.,
Superintendent,
Welfare & Training,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Ottawa.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

for 90 pelts,- by the report of Lampson, Fraser & Huth, a good firm of Montreal, to which we were directed by the Hudson Bay Co., that found our pelts of a good grade.

I wish that these explanations will show to you how hard it is for me to present such a report after so many efforts made by the Department and by the school. Like I told you already, I am proud to have been chosen for that experiment, but today I have to add that I expect some token of your appreciation in helping us by the authorization to keep the sum that will soon be into my hands.

I remain,

Yours very obediently,

(sgd.) M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Ottawa, February 20, 1940.

Re: Operation of Mink Ranch

Dear Father de Bretagne:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of the 12th instant and also statement of the expenses incurred by you in the operation of the mink ranch, attached thereto.

I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss the subject matter of your communication with the Treasury officials and consequently I am not in a position to state what action, if any, could be taken, under existing regulations, to pay over to you the proceeds received from the sale of the mink. It is noted that the total amount received is \$982.51. I am of the opinion that before the matter could even be considered we would have to have before us a recommendation from Dr. Robertson, Inspector of Indian Agencies, Saskatchewan. I am therefore sending forward a copy of the correspondence to him and asking him to submit a report and recommendation to the Department.

I am in receipt of a letter from Father Plourde, in which the suggestion is made that the money available from the sale of mink should be used for the extension of the barn at your school. In view of war conditions, however, unless the addition to the barn is urgently needed, this work should not be undertaken at any time in the immediate future. The Principals of our schools should know that the limited amount of

money -

Rev. M. de Bretagne, O.M.I.,
Principal,
Qu'appelle Residential School,
Lebret, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

- 2 -

money at our disposal will simply not permit us
to make extensions to our school buildings for the
time being at least.

Yours very truly,

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

RAH

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA**

Ottawa, February 20, 1940.

Dear Father Plourde:

In response to the suggestion contained in your letter of the 15th instant, I am enclosing herewith, for your information, copy of a letter sent forward under today's date to the Principal of the Cu'Appelle School, Lebret, Sask. This letter, you will note, is self-explanatory.

Yours very truly,

Encl.

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

JPH
Reverend J. O. Plourde, O.M.I.,
619 McDermot Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Ottawa, February 20, 1940.

Dear Dr. Robertson:

I am enclosing herewith, for your information, copy of a letter received by this Branch from the Principal of the Qu'Appelle Residential School, Lebret, Sask., and also copy of the expenses incurred by the Principal in the operation of the mink ranch.

You might, just as soon as the time at your disposal will enable you to do so, discuss with the Principal the suggestion contained in his letter. I am not at all sure that under existing Treasury regulations we could make the refund he suggests. In any event, no action should be taken until the matter has been investigated and reported upon by you.

Yours very truly,

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

Dr. Thos. Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Regina, Sask.

Encl.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6331, file 660-11, part 1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA