Indian Affairs
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6307)

File 653-1, part 1	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential Schools - General Administration. 1894, 1902 - 1904, 1911 - 1930
File 653-1, part 2	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential Schools - General Administration (Photos). 1919 - 1949
File 653-2, part 1	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential Schools - Quarterly Returns. 1941 - 1948
File 653-2, part 2	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential School - Quarterly Returns. 1948 - 1949
File 653-5, part 3	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential Schools - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1925 - 1928
File 653-5, part 4	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential Schools - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1928 - 1935
File 653-5, part 5	File Hills Agency - File Hills Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1936 - 1941

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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FILE NO. 653-1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

SUBJECT FILE HILLS DAY SCHOOL GENERAL

VOLUME 1 FROM 1-1 TO

FILE NO. 653-1

REFERENCE

Referred To	By	Remarks	Date	PA or BF	By	Date	For Records Use
E	[illegible]	5835	26/1	PA	T	30/1/50	30/1/50
				BF	am	13/2	
F7	Sm	B7	16/2	BF	am	7/3/50	16/2

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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FILE NO. 653-1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

FILE HILLS

PAY

~~RESIDENTIAL~~ SCHOOL

GENERAL

CROSS REFERENCE

111-1-1

File Hills Residential School General

653-1

FILE NO.

Central Registry	P.A. or B.F.	Date	Initials	Referred to	For Remarks	Initials	Date
		(If purpose for which referred cannot be expressed on one line, add minute to file, and enter here "With Minute")					
	PA	23/1		E1	1795	CR19	23/4/48
	PA	25/1/49	EM	E	Memo, please	CAFC	17/1/49
5/1/49	PA	31/1/49		E1	To note		26/1
1/2/49	PA	31/1	CAFC	E3	To note		26/1
	PA	3/		E	26617	CR19	1/3
	PA	2/3/49	CH	DIA	Memo		3/2
	PA	10/3		Secy	Note pls		3/2
	PA	10/3		E3	Note pls		3/2
	PA	10/3		E	Letter from Secy	Secy	9.3.49
11/3/49	P.A.	11/3	CAFC.	E3	Note pls		10/3
14/3/	PA	15/3		E1	29757	CR19	14/3
	PA	15/3		E1	424	CR19	17/3
	PA.	[illegible]	D.H.	Secy	Note		
23/3/49	PA	23/3		E1	1770	CR19	23/3
25/4/49	PA	23/4/49	CH	DIA	file to go		22/4
				E	21578	CR19	30/5
	PA	4/6/49	CH	D.I.A.	File to go.	CR19	24/6
10/6/49	PA	10/6		E			
	PA	21/6		E1	26506	CR19	21/6
23/6/49	PA	23/6	CH	DIA	file to go		
21/9/49	PA	21/9		E	16079		19/9
					File Hills 5.	Wrong file	
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R. 3755

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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No. 111-1-1 VOL.2 VOL.1 CLOSED

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

FILE HILLS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

GENERAL

R. 8649

~~117072-1~~ 111-1-1

Records
To file

October 14,1919.

Dear Mr. Gibson -

Mr. Commissioner Graham, Regina, has just advised me of your success at the fall school fair where you carried off so many of the best prizes. Will you please accept yourself and extend to the children my congratulations. It is most satisfactory for me to learn that our Indian children are receiving an education that enables them to compete with their white brethren.

Just a few days ago I received equally good tidings from Indian Reserves on Manitoulin Island in Ontario, but it is even more creditable to the Indians of our western provinces who have not had school advantages for so long time as those in the east.

ASM

Yours very truly,

DCS

Duncan C. Scott

Deputy Superintendent General.

W. W. Gibson, Esq.,
Principal,
File Hills Boarding School,
Balcarres, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1.

FILE HILLS RES. SCHOOL:-

Pupilage of 100 from April 1st, 1931. Commissioner Graham advised by letter of July 14th, 1931, on File 111-1-3.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1

REV. D. C. MACGREGOR, D.D.
CHAIRMAN

Board of Home Missions

The United Church of Canada

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
TORONTO 2, ONTARIO

REV. ROBERT B. COCHRANE, D.D.
SECRETARY

REV. COLIN G. YOUNG, D.D.
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

REV. KENNETH J. BEATON, B.A.
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

INDIAN AFFAIRS
MAY 2 1935
RECORDS

Immediate

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
O t t a w a, Ontario.

April 30th,
1 9 3 5.

Dear Sir:

Will you please be good enough to let me know by return mail why the File Hills School of The United Church of Canada receives per capita grant of only $160.00, while the Roman Catholic School at Lebret is paid $170.00 per capita. The Qu'Appelle School is much better situated than the File Hills School, as the former is just on the edge of the village and quite close to railway facilities, having therefore much less expense than the File Hills School in the matter of freight, truck transport, &c. I was under the impression that when these schools were "zoned" a few years ago, all inequalities were ironed out, but this is one which seems to have been overlooked, unless there is some explanation of which I am not aware.

Thanking you for your attention to this enquiry,

I am

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth J Beaton

KJB.MLT

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1.

Ottawa, May 7th, 1935.

Reverend Sir:

I have your letter of the 30th ultimo, regarding the per capita allowance provided at the File Hills Indian Residential School.

In this connection I have to say that, from the first of April, last, the per capita allowance at the File Hills School will be at the rate of $165. per capita, less 10%, during the present fiscal year. Grant at the above rate will be paid for an average of 100 pupils.

160 to 165

I may add that the per capita allowance for the Round Lake Indian Residential School will be at the same rate as stated above, for a pupilage of 75, as from April first, 1935.

The per capita rate at these schools is the same as is provided for a number of residential schools of similar type in Saskatchewan.

Your obedient servant,

A. F. MacKenzie,
Secretary.

Rev. Kenneth J. Beaton, B. A.,
Associate Secretary,
Board of Home Missions,
United Church of Canada,
299 Queen St. West,
Toronto 2, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-7-1

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

PRINCIPAL
F. Rhodes

File Hills Indian Residential School

SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

TELEPHONES:
Office 49 R 3
Res. 49 R-3-1

BALCARRES,

April 1st 1936.

DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
APR 4 1936
RECORDS

Dr H. W. McGill.
Deputy Superintendent General.
Department of Indian Affairs.
Ottawa. Ont.

Dear Dr McGill;

In 1921 and for a year or two after that date our School enjoyed exemption privileges from Sales Tax which was very much appreciated by all the Schools, in view of the necessity the Government finds in making a 15% deduction from per capita grants I believe it would help the Schools considerably if they could be granted exemption privileges again from the Sales tax.

Practically all the supplies purchased by the Schools for their necessary operation are subject to 6% sales tax or slightly less, if they were exempt from this Tax the burden of the 15% deduction would be lightened considerably.

I will greatly appreciate it if this matter could be given serious consideration.

Yours very truly,

F Rhodes.

Principal.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1.

EX'D.

Ottawa, April 6, 1936.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of the first instant, the Department is unable to secure a cancellation of the sales tax for the File Hills Indian Residential School. All other Indian schools, and, as a matter of fact, the Department itself pays the sales tax on all purchases. You will, therefore, see that no exception can be made in the case of the File Hills School.

Yours truly,

A. F. MacKenzie,
Secretary.

F. Rhodes, Esq.,
Principal,
File Hills Indian Res. School,
Balcarres, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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The Woman's Missionary Society of
The United Church of Canada

File Hills Residential School

Balcarres, Saskatchewan

50th Anniversary

The Principal, Staff and Pupils of the File Hills Residential School extend a cordial invitation to attend the ceremonies commemorating the 50th Anniversary which will be held at the School on June 14th, 1939 at 3 O'clock p. m. (Fast Time)

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1

Please File.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch.
MAY 23 1939
RECORDS

Ottawa, May 22, 1939.

EXT.

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

I received this morning your invitation to be present at the fiftieth anniversary of the File Hills Residential School on June 14 next.

As I do not expect to be in Western Canada at that date, it is with regret that I find myself unable to accept your invitation.

Please assure the staff and pupils of my interest in this event which commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of this school and accept my thanks for your kind invitation.

Yours very truly,

Director of Indian Affairs.

F. Rhodes, Esq.,
Principal,
Indian Residential School,
Balcarres, Saskatchewan.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE.....

Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital,
Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.,
November 15, 1939.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 17 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Dear Doctor Robertson:

Enclosed please find Form 182, for Kenneth Stonechild, Peepeekisis Band, File Hills Agency, and File Hills Indian Residential School.

According to Doctor Rothwell's verbal report, which he sent by Nurse E. Doll, who accompanied this patient, he could find no evidence of mental derangement, but advises transferring him to another School, rather than sending him back to File Hills School.

Your Obedient Servant,

A. R. Lewis
M.D.
Medical Superintendent,
Qu'Appelle Indian Health Unit.

Dr. Thos. Robertson,
Inspector Indian Agencies,
REGINA, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 6 1939
REGINA, SASK.

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

270-S 1.

File Hills Agency,
Balcarres, Sask.
Novr. 2nd. 1939

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to reply to your letter 306-11B of the 28th, October, regarding attempted suicide of Kenneth Stonechild, pupil of the File Hills Indian Residential School.

I attach herewith statement from Mr. Rhodes, Principal of the School also statement from Mr. Ganner, Boys Supervisor.

At about 9 A.M. Sunday Octr. 22nd, Mr. Rhodes, came to my home and informed me that a boy Kenneth Stonechild truanted from the School at about 5.30 P.M. fast time, Saturday Octr. 21st. He also informed me that the Father of the boy and the boy arrived at the School at 8.15 Sunday morning. The father stated that he had found his son Kenneth hanging by the neck from a cross beam in his stable at approximately ten minutes to seven.

Mr. Rhodes and I went to the home and stable of Harry Stonechild, father of the boy, and we inspected the rope in the stable, and found that it had been cut. We also found that the knot of the rope was still quite loose. While we were in the stable Harry Stonechild came over from the house and explained to us just how he had found Kenneth hanging. He also explained that he had cut the rope and assisted Kenneth over to the house. We then proceeded to the house and I questioned Kenneth and examined him for marks in the vacinity of the neck. I found a very slight abraision running along the point of the jawbone. Kenneth informed me that he had run away from the school because he had been sent back on the playground by one of the members of Staff, also that he "thought" the member had said he would attend to him later. He also informed me that he had obtained the rope used, from the bran room in the barn. I then returned to the Agency and immediately called Dr. Simes the Medical officer and the R.C.M.P. at Balcarres requesting them to come out and make an examination and investigation. I presume reports in full have been submitted to you from the Doctor and Police.

I would like to point out however the fact that the rope knot was quite loose indicating that no great strain had been placed upon it, further the beam from which the rope was suspended was quite low and that in my opinion it was impossible for a person of this boys height to hang suspended from this rope. Another fact which would require some explaining is that while this boy was cut down at 6.50 A.M. yet he and his father returned to the school at 8.15 A.M. and the place where the deed was done is some 20 to 25 minutes walk from the school, which would indicate the boy had not suffered much physicial strain.

While Mr. Rhodes opinion is that this boy was trying to bring discredit to the school, my opinion is that the boy wanted away from the school for good, also Mr. Rhodes informed me afterwards that the parents of this boy had made a verbal request last spring for the discharge of Kenneth.

Your obedient servant,
George Dodds

Thomas Robertson, Esq.
Inspector of Indian Agencies.

G. A. Dodds,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

PRINCIPAL
F. Rhodes

File Hills Indian Residential School

SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

TELEPHONES:
Office 49 R 3
Res. 49 R-3-1

BALCARRES,
October 31st 1939.

G. A. Dodds Esq,
Indian Agent,
File Hills Agency.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 6 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Dear Sir;

Re: No 179 Kenneth Stonechild.

In accordance with Dr Robertson's request in his letter dated October 28th relative to the attempted suicide of the above mentioned Pupil of this School, herewith please find statement from myself and one from Mr Ganner, Boys Supervisor, attached.

It was reported to me at about 6-25 PM on Saturday October 21st that the above mentioned Pupil was absent from the Supper Table, I instructed the Farm Instructor and the Boys Supervisor to search the grounds and Buildings for him, this was done but they were unsuccessful in finding the boy, I then proceeded to the home of the Boys Parents, Mr Harry Stonechild, and informed them that the Boy had left the School without permission, Mr Stonechild immediately commenced a search for his Son and on my way back to the School I kept a sharp watch for any trace of the Boy.

On my return to the School I made enquiries of the male members of Staff to ascertain if there was any real cause for the boy running away, Mr Ganner gave the information as set out in his statement, this information was corroborated on questioning the Boy the following day and it would appear that his truancy and subsequent act were based on the flimsiest of causes, this Boy had not been punished and as far as I am aware there had not been any threatened punishment by any of the members of Staff.

This Boy is at times very vacant and while I have never noticed any suicidal tendencies there appears to be rather a low mentality, I believe however that there was not any premeditated intention of committing suicide but rather a desire to cause trouble or bring discredit on the School.

Yours truly,

F Rhodes

Principal.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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File Gills Residential Indian School-
Balcarres- Sask.

Oct. 30th 1939

From. A. R. Gannon. (Boys Supervisor)

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 6 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Re. Kenneth Stonechild.

(1)

With reference to the above Indian Pupil at this School, and the complaint regarding myself which he has brought to your notice:-

On the afternoon of Oct. 21st at 4. P.m in my capacity as Boys Supervisor I was in the yard when I saw Kenneth Stonechild climbing through the playground fence and proceed towards the Horse- Barn.

According to the Rules of the School as laid down by the Principal the above pupil was wrong in:-

(1) Going over or through the playground fence to get to the Barn- yard.

(2) Going to the Horse- Barn 45 minutes before the proper time for evening chores without authority of the farm instructor.

I accordingly called to this Boy from the yard

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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and asked him where he was going.

He informed me he was going to the Horse Barn to feed-up.

I asked him if the farm Instructor had told him to do so, and he said. No.

I then told him to get back into the play-ground (by the proper way) and stay there until the farm instructor called him for chores.

I was at least 25 yards from this pupil during the conversation.

I subsequently heard that Kenneth Stonechild went to chores at the proper time, but at assembly for supper at. 5.30. P.m he was missing. When the opportunity occurred I informed the Principal of his absence.

I also wish to state emphatically that I did not punish this pupil in any way whatsoever. nor did I threaten to do so.

A. R. Gamer
(Boys. Supervisor)

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 6 3
REGINA, SASK.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

PLEASE QUOTE
FILE_____

Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital,
Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.,
November 9, 1939.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 13 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Dear Doctor Robertson:

Re: Kenneth Stonechild, Pupil File Hills School.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter file 306-11B., dated November 8, requesting report on the above named Indian School boy.

Since his admission to hospital for observation following which was thought to be an attempt to commit suicide, he has appeared to be perfectly normal and in no way has exhibited any symptoms of mental disarrangement. In order to be certain he was normal it will be necessary to to take him in for examination and report by Dr. Rothwell. I am hoping that it will not be necessary for him to remain in Hospital, but expect to take him to the Doctor's office. Once this report is received a report will be forwarded to you.

At present I am of the opinion that the action he took was not that he wished to take his own life, but rather that he wished to stir up disatisfaction against the school and staff, with the hope that he would be discharged. Unless Dr. Rothwell recommends that he be committed to a mental institution, I would recommend that arrangements be made for him to be transferred to another Residential School. I do not feel that it would be in the best interests of the other pupils to have him back at File Hills School and there would be a certain amount of punishment, that he is going to be away from his parents and not be able to see them as frequently as in the past. To me there is no reason whyhe should not continue to attend school. I will admit that no matter how long he may go he never will win a Governor General's medal, but that is no excuse to allow him to return to the Reserve to bum around and do nothing. If he is wanting to start that before he is 15 years of age, what will be be like when he reaches the age of 25 years.

Your Obedient Servant,

A. B. Simms
M.D.
Medical Superintendent,
Qu'Appelle Indian Health Unit.

Dr. Thos. Robertson,
Inspector Indian Agencies,
REGINA, Sask.

ABS/AM

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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F. 237

Division File No.....

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Division F | Sub-Division REGINA. | Detachment BALCARRES.

Province SASK. | Date October.23rd.1939.

File References

Headquarters

Sub-Division

RS.39

Detachment

P.C.R. BALCARRES. First.

A. R. V. No.

Diary Date set for

Re: Kenneth STONECHILD (Indian) (Juvenile) Attempted Suicide (270) File Hills Indian Reservation. Balcarres Dist. Sask. (BALCARRES DETACHMENT CASE)

22-10-39.

1. In reference to the above, phone call was received from Geo Dodds, Indian Agent at 10.40 a.m, this date to the effect that the above mentioned had attempted to take his life by hanging, this a.m, he had been cut down in time by his father Harry Stonechild, and was not apparently O.K. at his home.

2. I patrolled per Priv Auto to The Agency and the School, in charge of Principal, Mr.F.Rhodes, who was interviewed, Mr Dodds being away from the Reserve, Mr Rhodes stated that the above mentioned ran away from the school at 5.30 p.m, on the 21st inst, a search was made by Mr Rhodes and assistants but boy was not located, he was brought back to the school by his father at 8.15 a.m, date, on October 1st.1939, he was weighed at 106 lbs, he is 14 years and 8 months of age, birthdate March.1st.25.

3. Dr A.B.Symes, arrived at the Reserve and I patrolled with him to the residence of Harry Stonechild, where an examination was made of the barn in which the attempt was made, same is a log building 8'X 10', floor to roof, 7' there was a piece of rope hanging from a log downwards the loop in the rope was 58" from the ground(floor).

4. The following statement was taken from Kenneth Stonechild,

" I was at school on Saturday, I ran away from school when the bell rang for washing(5.30 p.m,) I went to my grandmothers, I went to the house my grandmother was home, I told her I ranaway from school, she went to Alex Stonechilds, I stayed in the house I was dark already, I stayed there about half an hour, I then came over to my Dads stable, I stayed around the stable I did not sleep,I stayed outside the stable, when it was breaking day I went into the stable, there were three horses in the stable,I had a rope that I had brought from the school in my hand, I put the rope around my neck, after putting it over a log in the barn, I wrapped the rope around my neck three times, I was trying to hang myself, I was hanging for half an hour, then Wilmer came in, then my Dad came he caught me and cut the rope and helped me out of the barn.

" He brought me to the house, I was feeling sick, I sat on a chair for a while, I had breakfast, I ate porridge milk, bread and butter. I went upstairs to bed, then Mr Rhodes and Mr Dodds came, they asked me questions, before Mr Rhodes and Mr Dodds came I had walked to the school with my Dad. I did this that is try to hang myself, because I did not like the way the staff at the school acted.

Sgd. Kenneth Stonechild.

OCT 28 1939

File numbers, heading and marginal reference are to be properly filled in.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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Re: Kenneth STONECHILD (Indian) (Juvenile)
Attempted Suicide (270) File Hills Reservation,
Balcarres District, Sask.
(BALCARRES DETACHMENT CASE)

STATEMENT OF HARRY STONECHILD, Indian.

" I am the father of Kenneth Stonechild, in July.1939 when Kenneth was on holidays he went away, this was on Balcarres Sports Day, he did not let us know, he went to Fort Qu'Appelle, he came home by himself.

" He wants to leave the school complaining that he cannot hear and it was causing trouble between him and the staff, having been notified that Kenneth had runaway from school last night, I looked for him, about 6.50 a.m, this date when I went to the barn I found Kenneth hanging by a rope from a rafter in my stable, I felt his heart and cut him down, he was O.K. we had breakfast then I took Kenneth up to the school, we walked up. I do not know any reason for him doing this.

Sgd. Harry Stonechild.

5. The Wilmer referred to in Kenneths statement is a relative of Stonechilds, he is crippled and a mute, this lad Kenneth was taken to the barn and described how he was hanging, he had the rope around his neck three times, the feet were spread on the floor, and he was lying back in the rope, pressure on the back of his neck, he would have starved to death before he would have died from hanging.

6. Dr Symes examined this youth, he found some slight abrasions on the neck and cheeks, The Doctor stated he would take this lad to The Hospital at Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask, and keep him under observation considering he was physcopathic, and in view of this lads age etc, and the fact that he was an Indian, and Juvenile, this appeared to be correct prodeedure, as this lad does not appear responsible for his actions.

7. I returned to my detachment this p.m,

HANDED OVER.
EXPENSE INCURRED, Shown on Form.93.
Period. Oct.16/31st.1939.

A/L/Cpl.
Reg.No.10173. C.Mears.
i/c Balcarres Detachment.

The O/C.,R.C.M.P.,
" F " Division,
REGINA, Saskatchewan

The O.C. R.C.M.P.
Regina Sub Division.
Sir: Forwarded.

Forwarded for your information.
Extra copies attached for the information of the Department of Indian Affairs.

24-10-39
DJM/H

C. Rivett-Carnac, Inspector
Commanding Regina Sub/Division.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
OCT 28 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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39R 641-15

Re: Kenneth STONECHILD (Indian) (Juvenile) - Attempted Suicide (270) - File Hills Indian Reservation - Balcarres District, Sask.

BALCARRES DETACHMENT REPORT - Oct. 23, 1939.

The Inspector in Charge, Indian Affairs Branch,
Dept. of Mines & Resources, REGINA, Sask.

Sir:- Forwarded 27-10-39, for your information. Would you kindly note from the report the boy Kenneth STONECHILD has stated he attempted suicide because he did not like the way the school staff acted. Possibly he is suffering mentally and if this is so what he has said may have no foundation. On the other hand it is felt some further investigation should be made into the cause for his act for the sake of all concerned.

It will be appreciated if you let me have your comments and whether or not any further enquiry will be undertaken through your Department.

A/Supt.
(L.H. Nicholson)
in Charge C.I.B.

REGINA, Sask.
WL/S (1)

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORAT...
OCT 28 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
NOV 20 1939
REGISTERED

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
No. 306-11B
ALSO TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
REGINA, SASK., November 17, 1939.

129 Lock Quarter

Dear Sir:

I beg to attach Police Report and correspondence re Kenneth Stonechild, attempted suicide, File Hills Residential School.

It will be noted the Police suggest that some further investigation should be made into the cause for his act. I have taken the matter up with Mr. Dodds, the Agent; Mr. Rhodes, the Principal of the School; and Dr. Simes, our Medical Superintendent. I can find no evidence that this boy has received any punishment in the past, had anything to fear at that time, or any valid reason why he should have made this attempt.

The boy has been, since that date, in the Qu'Appelle Indian Hospital, under the supervision of Dr. Simes, and the Doctor reports that he can find no evidence of any mental derangement. He is, however, going to bring him in to Dr. Rothwell for further examination. It is also Dr. Simes' opinion that the act was not committed with the intention of taking his life, but rather to stir up trouble in the school in the hope of securing his discharge. Dr. Simes recommends that if the boy is found to be normal he be returned to another school, as he considers the boy would have a bad influence, if he were returned there, on the rest of the pupils. Dr. Simes is apparently also of the opinion that he is not very bright and the schooling will not be of much benefit to him, but considers that he would be better there than running around the reserve.

We have in our schools both boys and girls around 15 years of age upon whom, in my opinion, we are simply squandering money in continuing them there with the hope of advancing them further in education. This boy is apparently one of that class. Under ordinary conditions I would recommend his discharge, but owing to the fact that it is believed he took this action for the purpose of obtaining his discharge, were it now given, it would have a tendency to encourage other pupils to take some action such as this to obtain theirs. I would therefore recommend that if this boy be found normal, authority be given to transfer him to another school. May I have your instructions please.

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Ottawa.

Yours truly,
Thos Robertson
Thos. Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Saskatchewan.

P.S.--Since writing the above, I am in receipt of another letter from Dr. Simes in which he states that Dr. Rothwell can find no evidence of mental derangement but recommends the boy be transferred to another school rather than sent back to File Hills. I might also state that I have advised the Police I can find no reason for this boy's action except a desire to obtain his discharge from the school.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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111-1-1

Ottawa, November 24, 1939.

Re: Kenneth Stonechild

EX'D.
A.

Dear Sir:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of November 17 and also a police report relating to the above noted student, attached thereto.

I note that in the last paragraph of your letter you state: "We have in our schools both boys and girls around 15 years of age upon whom in my opinion we are simply squandering money in continuing them there with the hope of advancing them further in education."

I am inclined to agree with you that a great deal of time is wasted in all educational institutions in seeking to educate boys and girls with a low I. Q. On the other hand, we have learned from experience that it is an exceedingly dangerous thing to turn boys and girls of this age with a low I. Q. rating loose on the reserves. You should feel perfectly free to point out to the principals of residential schools that these boys and girls should be engaged in vocational work - sewing, knitting, mat making, basketry, elementary agriculture, dish washing, etc. I learned from experience in the operation of the subnormal institution at Portage that it is astonishing what these boys and girls can undertake and accomplish if given the right direction.

In the case of Kenneth Stonechild, I can

see no -

Dr. Thomas Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Regina, Saskatchewan.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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see no serious objection to his transfer to another school, provided you can make the necessary arrangements. If, on the other hand, home conditions are reasonably satisfactory, he might be allowed to return home. The history of the attempted suicide is likely to reach the school ahead of him and make it somewhat embarrassing for him to feel at home in any school to which he might be sent. Any arrangements you can see fit to make will be acceptable to the Department.

Yours truly,

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

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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REGINA GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Regina, Sask.,
November 16, 1939.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
NOV 20 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Dr. A. B. Simes:
Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.

Dear Dr. Simes:

Your patient, Stonechild, was in my office on November 14th. After going into this case, and with the information you had given me, I feel that it is just a problem of behaviour in this boy. It might seem a little unusual that he would go to the lengths of trying to take his life, but I feel, as you seem to, that he did not intend to do anything more than create sympathy for himself. He is undoubtedly deaf and has considerable difficulty in the school classroom, and as a result of this he claims that t the teacher would get out of patience with him at times and "Boxed his ears", I believe he said. He is quite emotional and cried, when telling about it. I suppose that it was not as bad as that, but rather he himself was not anxious to remain in school. No doubt these children of the wild are even more inclined to want to be out of School in the wide open spaces than a white child, so it would not be very unusual if he did feel that way about school.

When he left the school and went home he was still in fear of his father punishing him and taking him back to the school, and that no doubt would explain his remaining outside and then arranging things so that it would appear when they turned up in the morning that he had tried to take his own life. He is only fifteen years of age and rather young to think of something as serious as that, and I do not feel that he was intending to take his own life--in fact he volunteers the statement now that he did not, but thought it would be a good way to have himself excused from running way from school.

I am inclined to be sympathetic towards this youngster because there were many things about the school that he did not like besides the teacher. He tells me that the boys of his age teased him a great deal and would tell him he was both dumb and deaf and, from his own statements, they did impose upon him. To protect himself from that he chose to play with children much younger, which no doubt created the impression among the teachers that he was of their mental age.

You suggest getting some new school environment and I think that would be advisable and it might ehlp to solve the problem. I do not feel that this boy is as yet either a defective or a case of mental trouble.

Yours very truly,

O.E. Rothwell, M.D.
Director,
Psychopathic Department.

OER/EP.

Copy:

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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ECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES

CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

File 306-11B

Regina, November 20, 1939.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch.
NOV 23 1939
REGISTERED

EXD.

Dear Sir:

With further reference to my #306-11B of November 17th, re attempted suicide, Kenneth Stonechild, File Hills Residential School, I now beg to attach Dr. Rothwell's report, which I think confirms Dr. Simes' idea that it was not actually a case of attempted suicide.

You will note Dr. Rothwell also considers this boy should be transferred to another school.

See letter Nov 24/39 PP

Yours truly,

F. McArton

for Thos. Robertson,
Inspector of Indian Agencies,
Saskatchewan.

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Ottawa.
TR/FMc

(Letter dictated by Dr Robertson)

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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Principal:
F. Rhodes

The Woman's Missionary Society of The United Church of Canada

File Hills Indian Residential School

Saskatchewan, Canada

Telephones:
Office 48 R.3
Res. 49 R 3-1

Balcarres,

November 27th 1939.

Dr Thos Robertson,
Inspector for Saskatchewan,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Regina, Sask.

SASKATCHEWAN INSPECTORATE
DEC 6 1939
REGINA, SASK.

Dear Doctor Robertson;

Re: No.167. Reginald. Keewatin.

I have to report that the above mentioned Pupil of this School truanted on Friday evening, November 17th between 5-30 and 6-00 PM, he proceeded to his home the same evening, I went to the home of his Parents the following morning and they informed me that the boy was out helping his brothers to cut wood, when the Father and myself went to the bluff the boy could not be found, I decided to leave the boy with his Parents and advised them to bring him back to the School when he had settled down somewhat, they returned him to the School on Tuesday afternoon and at 5-30 the same evening he was again missing he was returned to the School again on Thursday and was put to bed and his clothing taken away from him.

On Friday morning Mr Ganner, the Boys Supervisor sent one of the Boys to the Dormitory for this boys dishes, the boy returned immediately and reported that Reggie was trying to hang himself in the Bathroom in the Dormitory, Mr Ganner immediately went to the Dormitory and found this Boy suspended from a vent pipe in the Bathroom by a belt under his chin and attached to a Bed sheet thrown over the pipe, Mr Ganner released the boy and sent him back to his bed,(the boy was able to walk to his bed without any difficulty) and placed a guard over him, this guard has been maintained since.

On Saturday on my return I notified the Mounted Police at Balcarres of this incident and he made a trip to the School for the purpose of questioning this Boy, we were not able to glean any information as to why he had done this other than that the Staff are always mean to him and are always picking on him, this has been the excuse given in other cases

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the reason for running away, I would say that this boy like Kenneth Stonechild has not been disciplined or punished, and they therefore cannot give this as a cause for their truancy, they resent being spoken to and corrected by the members of Staff, that is the only reason we can find for their actions.

It would appear upon questioning that this Boy did not actually intend to do away with himself, it is significant that he waited until he heard some-one coming to the Dormitory and then made the attempt knowing that they would immediately look for him when they found that he was not in his bed, he has admitted to me since that it was not his intention to go the limit, that he wanted to cause trouble by this action, I believe there is a concerted effort afoot to cause trouble and bring discredit upon the School and the Staff, particularly Mr Ganner, it has always been my experience that one member of Staff is particularly disliked by the Indians and they will go to any length to cause trouble for him in the hope that he will be discharged, when they succeed in their efforts they direct their attentions to another member of Staff, in past years this attitude has been ignored by myself and I have told the Indians that I will take the responsibility for my Staff, and that I would not tolerate any interference on their part, I still believe that these boys have been put up to this by some-one outside, but neither the Mounted Police Corporal or myself have been successful in finding out who it is.

In this connection I have been thinking that it might be as well if we were to ask the Mounted Police to co-operate and send a special investigator to the School, I would be willing to give Mr Ganner extended leave of absence, and the investigator could take Mr Ganner's position at the School, we could leave the impressio that Mr Ganner had resigned and left, this arrangement would have to be entirely secret of course, I wonder if you could see the Mounted Police authorities and discuss this with them (if you consider such action would help to clear up this matter) I am firmly convinced that this is the only way we can get to the bottom of the affair.

In connection with the Kenneth Stonechild case; I am quoting a few extracts from a short letter I received from Mr Frayling of the Gordon's School on Saturday, his letter is dated the 23rd.

"Dear Mr Rhodes,

I was sorry to hear of the sad ending of one of your boy pupils, *** You have my sympathy knowing the many untrue reports that can circulate at such times."

It would appear from the above that reports have been circulated among the Indians of the Touchwood Agency that Stonechild actually took his life, I have not heard where Mr Frayling got his information, but there is no doubt that what he has heard is quite

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accepted as true on that Agency, I do not know just how general the circulation of this report has been, but there is no doubt that the whole Province, (at least the Indians of the Province) are aware of the attempt made by Stonechild, I would therefore like you to co-operate with me and forward a letter to the Indian Agent at the Touchwood Agency stating that the reports circulated throughout that Agency are entirely untrue and requesting the Agent to correct this impression in his contacts with the Indians, it might be that we shall hear of similar reports from other Agencies and it might then be neccesary to circulate all Agencies that these reports are absolutley untrue.

If you feel that this could be better discussed verbally in your Office I would be willing to come in and do so, at the present time I feel that one can hardly leave the place in case something else crops up that will have more disastrous effects.

I trust you will be able to give this matter your early attention.

Yours very truly,

J Rhodes

Principal.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6307, file 653-1, part 2)

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INSPECTOR OF INDIAN AGENCIES

See Hales

CANADA

DEPARTMENT
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

File 306-11B

Regina, December 8, 1939.

Department of Mines & Resources
Indian Affairs Branch
DEC 11 1939
REGISTERED

Dear Sir:

Re: File Hills Indian Residential School.

I am attaching a letter received from Mr. Rhodes, Principal of the above school. You will note from this that there has been another case of so-called attempted suicide at this school; that it is Mr. Rhodes' opinion that there is some outside influence trying to stir up trouble; that he suggests getting the Mounted Police to send in a special investigator.

I have discussed the matter thoroughly with Mr. Rhodes. He is firmly convinced that in neither case did the boys actually intend to commit suicide--in fact both of them have admitted that they did not. In the last case the strap was under the boy's chin, not around his throat.

Mr. Rhodes is of the opinion that while the Boys' Supervisor, Mr. Ganner, has done nothing in the way of punishment to antagonize the boys, some of them have taken a dislike to him and are adopting this method of stirring up trouble, with the hope of having him removed. While Mr. Rhodes suspects some outside influence is at work, he has no evidence at all to support the idea.

He suggested that the Police send in an investigator, and while, in my opinion, to do so would be of no value, as I do not believe the Indians would give any information to any white man so sent in, even if outside influence is being used, I took the matter up with the Mounted Police and they advise that while they are at all times

The Secretary,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Ottawa.

ready to.....

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