

MEMO.

1774574
Department of Indian Affairs.

190

St. Joseph's
Ind. School

Correspondence

Indian Affairs, 1874-75, 1875-76, 1876-77, 1877-78, 1878-79

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

725
MEMO. Mr. McFinn.

Ottawa,

Union Father La Combe

done by
will.

In regard to your conversation
with me while at Calgary re
the taking of Orphan Children
from the Dr. Bureau & placing
them in the Ind. Schools I beg
to inform you that I am un-
certain why that should not
be done if they are ~~orphan~~
children whose lot is to be among
the Indians & when parentage is
doubtful -

I am informed that such
has been the custom - when
however the parentage is known
then expenses should be paid where
it is possible to collect them -

Ottawa,

Memo.

A copy of Mrs. [unclear] to
sent to Mr. [unclear]. [unclear]
with instructions to [unclear]
her [unclear] agent to [unclear]
my [unclear] - [unclear] [unclear]
power to [unclear] [unclear]
~~children~~ their children
for the school.

EP

File No. 69.581.

Indian Commissioner

—FOR—

Manitoba and the N. W. Territories,

Regina, S. W. T.

Ottawa, July 30th 1891.

Return to
Correspondence Branch.

Comrs. No. 906.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 17th Inst. en-
closing ^{copies of} two tenders received
for the supply of 30 Cord of
dry poplar wood, ^{cut and split} to the St.
Joseph's Industrial school;
and in reply I have to
request that you will report
whether it would not in
future be feasible to have
the wood cut and split
by the boys at the school, so
that a saving ^{might} be
effected by having the
same supplied in Chd. wood
and the. Yours.

X
as they are not
supposed to have
much outdoor
work part of the
fall and in the
winter)

your reply refer to
No. 922
Also to the date of this letter.

81360



OFFICE OF THE

Indian Commissioner,

MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Regina, 7th Aug. 1891.



*3. Select what
do these articles
cost?
Aug 7/91*

Sir,
I have the honour to
inform you that the Princi-
pal of the High River Indus-
trial School has asked to
be supplied with a diamond
glass cutter for the purpose
of making repairs to windows
of that institution, and to
request authority to purchase
one for the School in
question.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Atmargt.

Asst. Commissioner

The Deputy of the
Supt. General of
Indian Affairs,
Ottawa

MEMORANDUM

To *By Minute* *that if diamonds were* *Department of Indian Affairs,*

Aug 14th 1891

1. Cost of the purchase of a diamond
for the Industrial School was five
dollars but the prices vary
according to quality.



J. W. Shaw
for Asst.

File No. 69581

Return to
Correspondence Branch.

Com'r's. No. 922

Indian Commissioner

—FOR—

Manitoba and the N. W. Territories,

Regina, N. W. T.

Ottawa, Aug 18th, 1891.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 3rd Inst requesting
authority to purchase a
diamond glass cutter for
the High River Industrial
School; and in reply
I beg to inform you that
if absolutely necessary, the
article in question may
be supplied but the cost
should not exceed \$5⁰⁰.

Yours &c

In your reply refer to
No. 906,
at the date of this letter.

Address your reply to
"The Indian Commissioner,
Regina, N.W.T."

Office of the

81899

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

North-West Territories.

Regina, 19th August 1891

2nd August 91
Aug 24/91
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of the 30th Ultimo requesting that it be reported
whether it would not be possible in future to have the
wood cut and split by the boys at the St. Joseph's Ind-
ustrial School; and in reply to inform you that at the
time it was thought there were reasons for not getting
the boys to cut the wood, but in future the work can be
done by them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Walter Reed
Commissioner.

To the,

Deputy of the,

Supt. General,

of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 3933, file 117,657-1)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

Translation

Calgary 19th August 1891



My Resd & dear Father (Gendreau)
As I informed you a few days ago,
I am again, through you, addressing
myself to the Hon^{ble} the Superintendent
of Indian Affairs.

Having, lately, visited the Industrial
School at High River, I found it in
a prosperous state, thanks to the
assiduous care of the Principal and
of his assistants, the children, are making
visible progress not only in the study
of the English, but as well in the
different branches of industry to which
they apply themselves. They have
executed some works in carpentry
and shoe-making of which I was
greatly surprised. The bakery is
superintended by a young man of
about 16 or 17 years of age, who has
other companions under his orders.
The farmers also seem to work with
great taste, but unhappily hail has
once more destroyed their hopes
and greatly discouraged them. A

I have studied these children at work, at play, at prayer, and I have concluded that after all the pains they receive, the Black Feet are greatly inferior to others. It is fortunate that there are among them some Crees and Half Breeds who encourage and excite others to self-pride. There are some very small Black Feet children who are not, like others, able to habituate themselves to wild life, but whose parents unhappily are always camping near the school, and some times there take refuge, which cause the children ^{to see} them and their comings in real or imaginary stages of life which destroy in them all the good effect of the instruction they receive, and which also cause a great confusion in the school, to the despair of the Principal. There is something still more discouraging than that, it is the want of space
for

for the children. There are 73 children and the dormitories are hardly sufficient to accommodate 40. The infirmary has been converted into a temporary dormitory and, of what I have seen, there is hardly one foot of space between each bed. Ventilators have been made with a view to render these too much crowded rooms more healthy, but if they let rain to enter and allow cold air to circulate, they do not give more space. The same hall is used for study, classes and recreations, and can then imagine the difficulty we have to keep it clean and even to ventilate it during certain days of the year, as there are some small boys who have not the age nor the strength to go to the shops which also are too small to accommodate a large number of children. We are therefore obliged to refuse admission to some of them. What should we do in case of an epidemic?

Do

We would have no separate
apartment to isolate the sick
ones, and death would be very
desastrous, and the now well
disposed parents would not allow
their children to go and die in
such an Establishment, and you
may imagine of the consequences.

Additional
Building
allowance
Year

The Revd Principal had the hope
that some constructions which, the
Doctor of the School, visitors employed
by the Department, and others,
thought to be most necessary
would soon be undertaken; but
by a letter dated the 14th, which he
received from Mr Reed, he fears that
nothing of the kind will be done
owing to a paragraph therein which
reads thus. "The amount included
in your estimates this year by the
Department, is small". The reasons
of this meagre allowance were
given by the Hon^{ble} Superintendent
to the Revd Father Lacombe, by a letter
of last month, of which you were
informed

5
informed by letter from me, from
St Boniface. The reasons given and
on account of the large expenditure
incurred by the Department last
year for the education of the Indians.
I am aware that great expenses
have been incurred, but notwithstanding
that I am forced to complain
seeing that the consequences seem
to have been exclusively brought to
bear upon us. The facts may be
denied by the Department, but they
nevertheless exist. I have seen at
a distance from Regina, a splendid
Establishment which is being erected
for a Presbyterian Industrial
School. On the other hand, a reserve
in the District of Carlton — And
I doubt very much whether there are
20 Presbyterians Indians in the
North West. There is another
Establishment nearing completion
at Medicine Hat, for which denomination
I do not know? And a third one
is in course of construction for
the

No money
from
Govt.

the Methodists of Red Deer, but that denomination has a large ~~and~~ number of Indians adhering to its faith. It is not extraordinary to see that already established schools are being left in want ^{Red Deer} for the mere sake of opening new ones before ascertaining whether or not there are children to occupy them. How could I not, for my part, suppose that our faith is the sole cause of the parsimony with which we are treated. As an example, please read the Blue Book and see what is being expended for the respective Industrial Schools at Battleford and High River. This increase in the number of children at High River necessitates also an increase in the number of the employees for the making of clothings, to repair and keep them clean — The employees are too few and more are wanted, but how are we to obtain a retribution for them all? This is a difficult question to

to answer. Moreover, the Principal's allowance has been decreased of \$200⁰⁰.

You will remember that, in your presence, I had asked the Hon^{ble} the Minister of the Interior, for a second assistant to the said Principal, and I was not asking for any remuneration then; my intention was to get help for the Principal who is overworked.

In view of a deduction of the Principal's allowance, I ask that the Father whom I gave him as assistant, be paid as is the assistant granted to the Revd Principal at Du'apelle, and in order that this allowance ^{may} be granted I beg to state that the Revd Father Comire has been in charge as assistant for nearly two months. You will also recollect of a letter which I addressed to Mr H Reed, a copy of which was sent you at the time, I believe, relating to two young men who had been sent from the Industrial School of Battleford to Onion Lake

2nd Asst.

B. 100609

to do certain works, who, on
their arrival there and of their
own free will, went to the
Catholic missionary and assured
him that, notwithstanding all
efforts made to induce them
to change their religion, they
had been always faithful to it
and that they intended to live
and die as Catholics. The guardian
of one of these two young men,
has travelled all the way from
Omias Lake to St. Albert, to pray
me to interfere in his behalf with
a view to have his son taken
out of an establishment where
he is not permitted to profess
his religion, and he assured me
that he never had in any way
given his authority to the Revd
Clark to teach the protestant
doctrine to his son. The Revd
Principal had asked the name
and the religion of the child.

This Indian who was an infidel

at

at that time, was desirous to have his adopted son brought up in the religion in which he had been baptised and educated —

And according to the Revd Principal's version, this Indian is said to be opposed to his son being brought up as a Catholic? The two young in question have been reprimanded for their having attended to the Catholic church. I have informed Mr H Reed of these facts. Since the Revd Father Daughin has written to me, on 2nd of July last. By the same mail the Revd Minister has received a letter from Mr Reed, respecting these young men about whom I spoke to you at St Albert. By the content of that letter the said young man is obliged to attend the protestant church as long as he is an inmate of that Industrial school, the Revd Minister himself read the letter to the said young man.

Yours

You can see, My Lord, from
 these facts, what you can get out
 of the promises made to you
 by the Government. On the 3rd
 August last, I wrote out a copy
 of this paragraph and sent it to
 Mr Reed, asking him some
 explanations, and the following is
 his reply of the 10th August - "In
 reply I beg to inform Your Lordship
 that when it was learned that the
 youth referred to was attending
 the Roman Catholic church, he
 being known to this Office only as
 a pupil of a protestant school,
 allowed out temporarily for a
 special purpose, it was felt to be
 a duty to see that he attended
 the services of the church to which
 it was taken for granted that
 he belonged, and Mr Blain, the
 millwright in whose charge
 he was, was told to request
 the protestant clergyman
 to look after him, and the clergyman
 was

was written to directly to the same effect. A similar course would have been adapted had the boy come from a Roman Catholic School, and been found attending Protestant Church.

Please allow me, here, to write two more quotations which you already know. The first is from a letter received from the Honble Sir John Macdonald, of precious memory, dated the 9th December, as follows:— I quite agree that under no pretext and any of the Government Officials to insist on the Indians sending their children to a school where their religious faith will be imperilled or not respected.

You also know what the Honble Superintendent wrote to me, on the 5th of September last, of which I quote a few words, here:— "In regard to the subject of interference with the Indians
respecting

respecting the school they should attend, our agents have been instructed on several occasions that they are not to interfere in such a way as to cause our Indians to attend schools which are not of their own faith. I think it would be a pity to lay down a cast iron rule, that children of one denomination should not be allowed to enter the school of another denomination, or in some cases it would prevent a child receiving any instruction at all, but I think that where children of one denomination attend the school of another, the priest or clergyman belonging to the religion of these children should be allowed to visit them at stated times, and the children should be allowed to attend the church to which they belong. I think we might depend upon the Roman Catholic Inspector's Report

Report in regard to the matter.
 This ^{paragraph} is rather long as you see, and
 had I not written ^{it} at length. I
 have no doubt that you could have
 procured it from some other source,
 but I am so anxious to bring
 the matter to your attention and
 to that of the Hon^{ble} E. Dewdney.
 Notwithstanding the particular case
 upon which Mr Reed bases his
 argument as an excuse for his
 letter to the Revd Minister of Onion
 Lake, it cannot be denied that
 his action is in direct opposition
 to the contents of the letters written
 by his Superiors, and from which
 the foregoing quotations have been
 copied. As to what Mr Reed says,
 that, if catholic children from a
 catholic school, were found going
 to a protestant service, that he would
 do the same for them, as he has done
 for the young man at Onion Lake,
 I beg to remark that the said
 young man is a catholic, his brother
 and

and himself say so, and that this young man has now attained the age of 19 years. I would also add that, in the District of Battleford, thanks to the agent, Mr Williams, and I also believe by the approval of Mr Reed, the good letters referred to above, ~~long~~ paragraphs of which I have quoted, have had a partial effect only, which we have obtained very recently.

With regard to our Catholic children confined in the Industrial school at Battleford, we have never been permitted to see them. The Revd P. Begoness accompanied by the Catholic Inspector, and provided with the Honorable Superintendent's letter, were refused admittance to see Catholic children.

The Revd Mr Clark pretended that they were all educated as protestants, by order of the parents. A few weeks after the Revd Minister had made these affirmations in writing, I ~~was~~ learned

learned the true history of these two young men, which need not be repeated here. By the above facts, it is easily seen that the Revd Father Dauphin has good reasons to write to me.

You see the result of the fine promises which the Government have made to you. While speaking of my difficulties, yesterday, some persons told me that I would do more good by having the facts published in a newspaper, than writing long memorandums without any apparent good results. It would be painful to take such course, I would rather try all possible means, through you, and I cannot surely despair knowing your good will, as well as that of the Honorable E. Dewdney.

Believe me dear Father

Your thankful brother &c
 (sgd) H. & M.
 + Vital L. de St Albert
 O. M. I.

Calgary 19 Aout 1891

Monsieur Reverend et bien Cher Père Gendreau

Comme je vous l'écrivais dernièrement, c'est par votre ministère que je vais m'adresser à l'h. Surintendant des affaires indiennes.

J'ai visité tout récemment l'école industrielle de High River. Elle me paraît vraiment dans un état prospère; grâce aux soins assidus du Principal et des différents surveillants, les enfants font des progrès visibles non seulement dans l'étude de l'anglais mais dans les différentes branches d'industrie auxquelles ils s'appliquent. Ils ont fait des travaux en charpenterie, en menuiserie, et en cordonnerie dont je ne les avais pas supposés capables. La boulangerie est tenue par un jeune homme de 16 à 17 ans qui a d'autres compagnons boulangers sous ses ordres. Les fermiers me semblent assez travailler avec goût, malheureusement la grêle les a encore découragés en détruisant leurs espérances. J'ai examiné ces enfants au travail, au feu, à la prière et j'ai constaté que malgré tous les soins, les Pieds Noirs sont fort inférieurs aux autres. C'est heureux qu'il y ait parmi eux des Cuis et quelques Métis qui donnent le branle aux autres et excitent leur amour propre. Il y a maintenant de tout petits Pieds Noirs qui ne pouvant comme les autres prendre les habitudes sauvages, malheureusement les parents viennent toujours se camper près de l'établissement et s'y faire éberger.

virent leurs enfants et leurs cousins à tous les degrés réels ou imaginaires, détraquent en eux les effets des instructions qu'ils reçoivent, comme des grands derangements dans l'école et sont le désespoir du Principal.

Il y a quelque chose de plus pénible ^{que cela} encore, c'est le manque d'espace pour les enfants. Il y a 73 enfants et les dortoirs sont à peine suffisants pour 40. On a transformé l'infirmerie en dortoir et d'après ce que j'ai vu il y a à peine un pied de séparation entre ~~les~~ ^{quelques} lits. On a fait des ventilateurs pour assainir ces appartements encombrés, outre que ventilateurs donnent passage à la pluie et donneront passage au froid, ils ne sauraient donner d'espace. La même salle sert pour l'étude, les classes et les récréations. Jugez si il est possible de la tenir propre et même et même de l'aérer à certains jours, car il y a des petits qui n'ont ni l'âge ni la force d'aller aux ateliers, qui sont eux aussi insuffisants pour recevoir un certain nombre d'enfants. On en est réduit à refuser les enfants. En avec cet encombrement survenant une maladie épidémique, il n'y a pas un appartement pour y retirer les pestiférés. La mort multipliera en grand, les parents bien disposés aujourd'hui, ne consentiront plus à laisser leurs enfants aller mourir dans cet établissement. Jugez des conséquences. Le R. P. Principal se berçait de l'espoir que bientôt on ferait des constructions jugées indispensables par le docteur de l'établissement et par tous les visiteurs, employés du Département et autres. Une lettre que M. Reed lui adressait le 14, lui fait craindre qu'il n'en soit rien.

à cause de ce passage: the amount included in your estimate this year by the Department is small. Les raisons de cette mince allocation l'h. Surintendant la donnait au R.^d P. Lacombe dans une lettre du mois dernier et dont je vous ai entretenu dans celle que je vous adressais de St. Boniface. Ce sont les grandes dépenses que le Département a faites l'année dernière pour l'éducation des sauvages. Je sais en effet qu'on a fait de grandes dépenses et je ne puis m'empêcher de me plaindre qu'on semble vouloir en faire subir les conséquences exclusivement à nous. On le mettra au Département, mais enfin les faits sont là. J'ai vu de loin à Regina un superbe établissement que l'on batit pour école industrielle presbytérienne. A part une ~~seule~~ dans le district de Carlton, je ne sais pas s'il y a 20 sauvages presbytériens dans le N. O. Une autre, je ne sais pour quelle dénomination religieuse s'achève à Medicine Hat, un troisième est en construction pour les Methodistes à Red Deer au moins ces derniers ont des sauvages qui partagent leur foi; Mais n'est ce pas extraordinaire qu'on laisse dans le besoin des établissements fondés pour en fonder des nouveaux si complets et si achevés lorsqu'on n'est pas même certain de pouvoir avoir des enfants pour les occuper. Enfin pour ma part, ne pas supposer que notre foi est la principale cause de la parcimonie avec laquelle on nous traite; voyez sur le blue book par exemple ce qu'on dépense pour l'école industrielle de Battleford et celle de High River. Cette augmentation des enfants de High River fait aussi augmenter le nombre

des employés pour faire les vêtements, les raccommo-der et le tenir propre les employés ne peuvent plus suffire il en faut absolument d'autres mais comment obtenir une retribution pour les dites employés? ce ne sera sans doute pas facile. Or a en outre diminué de \$ 200⁰⁰ l'allocation du Principal. Vous vous souvenez à ce sujet que j'avais demandé en votre présence à l'h. Ministre de l'Intérieur à donner un second assistant au dit Principal, je ne demandais pas de payement alors. Je tenais à soulager le pauvre Principal qui ne peut suffire à toutes ses obligations. Dès lors qu'on a diminué l'allocation du Principal je demande que ce père que je lui ai donné comme assistant soit payé comme l'est celui qu'on a accordé au R. Principal de Chapelle. et je vous prie pour que cette allocation soit faite. Il y a près de deux mois que le R. P. Comrie est en charge.

Vous vous souvenez aussi d'une lettre que j'ai adressée je ne sais plus dans quel temps à M^r H. Reed. Je crois vous en avoir envoyé copie dans le temps. Il s'agissait de deux jeunes gens envoyés de l'école industrielle de Battleford au Lac d'Oignow pour y exécuter certains travaux. Les jeunes gens arrivés à ce poste se sont rendus d'eux mêmes auprès du Missionnaire catholique et l'ont assuré que malgré tout ce qu'on avait fait pour leur faire abandonner leur religion ils y avaient toujours été fidèles et qu'ils voulaient vivre et mourir catholiques. Le père adoptif d'un de ces jeunes gens a fait le voyage du Lac d'Oignow à St. Albert pour me prier d'intervenir afin que son fils sorte d'un établissement où il ne peut faire sa religion en assumant qu'il n'avait

donne au R^d Clark aucune autorisation de l'élever
protestant et que lorsqu'ils le lui avait remis, le R^d Prin-
cipal lui avait demandé le nom et la religion de l'enfant.
lui sauvage, encore infidèle dans le temps, tenait pourtant
à ce que son fils adopté fut élevé dans la religion dans la-
quelle il avait été baptisé et instruit fere qu'alors et il s'oppose
d'après la demande du R^d Principal qu'il soit en effet élevé
catholique. Les deux jeunes gens ont été repris pour être
venus à l'église catholique. J'en ai instruit moi-même M^r
H. Reed. Depuis le R^d P. Dauphin m'écrivait le 2 juillet
dernier. Par la dernière maille, le R^d Ministre a reçu une lettre
de M^r Reed, au sujet du jeune homme dont j'avais eu l'honneur
de vous parler à St-Albert. D'après cette lettre le dit jeune
"homme est obligé d'aller à l'église protestante tant qu'il ne
"sera pas sorti de l'école industrielle. C'est le R^d Ministre
lui-même qui a lu la lettre au dit jeune homme. D'après cela
"vous voyez, Monseigneur le cas que vous pouvez faire des
"promesses que le Gouvernement vous a faites.

Le 3 Aout dernier, je copiais ce passage et l'envoyai à
M^r Reed lui demandant des explications. Voici la réponse
que me faisant donner M^r H. Reed le 10 Aout. In reply
"I beg to inform your Lordship that when it was learned
that the youth referred to was attending the Roman Catholic
Church, the being known to this office only as a pupil of a
protestant school, allowed out temporarily for a special
purpose, it was felt to be a duty to see that he attended the
services of the Church to which it was taken for granted
that he belonged, and M^r Blair, the millwright under

"whose charge he was, was told to request the protestant
 "clergyman to look after him, and the clergyman was
 "written to directly to the same effect. A similar case has
 "been adopted had the boy come from a Roman Catholic
 "school, and been found attending Protestant church.
 Permettez-moi de faire encore deux autres citations que
 vous connaissez déjà. - la première est d'une lettre que M.
 Sir John McDonald de précieuse mémoire, m'écrivait le
 9 décembre 1886 "I quite agree that under no pretext
 are any of the Government officials to insist on the
 Indians sending their children to a school where their reli-
 gious faith will be impeded or not respected.
 Vous savez de plus que M. le Surintendant m'écrivait le
 5 septembre dernier. Je cite quelques mots. "In regard to the
 "subject of interference with the Indians respecting the school
 "they should attend. Our Agents have been instructed on
 "several occasions that they are not to interfere in such a
 "way as to cause our Indians to attend schools which
 "are not of their own faith. I think it would be a pity
 "to lay down a cast iron rule that children of one denomi-
 "nation should not be allowed to enter the school of another
 "denomination, or in some case it would prevent a child
 receiving any instruction at all. but I think that where
 children of one denomination attend the school of another,
 the Priest or Clergyman belonging to the religion of these
 children should be allowed to visit them at stated times, and
 the children should be allowed to attend the church to
 which they belong. I think we might depend upon the

"Roman Catholic Inspector report in regard to this matter

La citation est longue et sans la faire en entier vous auriez pu vous la procurer ailleurs. Mais j'ai voulu vous la rappeler et par vous à l'h. E. Dewney. Malgré le cas particulier sur lequel M^r Reed s'appuie pour expliquer sa lettre au R^d Ministre du lac d'Orignou, on ne verra pas qu'elle ne s'accorde guère avec les lettres de ses deux supérieurs dont je vins de citer de longs passages. Pour ce qu'il dit que si des enfants catholiques d'une école catholique se rendaient au service protestant, il ferait pour eux ce qu'il a fait pour les jeune homme du lac d'Orignou je ferai observer que le dit jeune homme est catholique, c'est lui et son père qui le disent et le jeune homme à 19 ans.

J'ajoute que dans le district de Battleford, grâce à l'Agent M. Williams et j'en ai toute de croire avec l'assentiment de M^r Reed, ces bonnes lettres dont je viens de citer de longs passages n'ont pu avoir qu'un effet partiel que nous n'avons obtenu que tout dernièrement. Pour ce qui est de nos enfants catholiques enfermés dans l'école industrielle de Battleford, nous n'avons jamais pu les voir. Le R^d P. Begoness en compagnie de l'Inspecteur catholique, armé de la lettre de l'h. Surintendant n'ont pas été admis à voir les enfants. Le R^d M^r Charles a prétendu qu'ils étaient tous élevés protestants par ordre des parents. Quelques semaines après que le R^d Ministre eut fait par écrit ces affirmations