Indian Affairs School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6206)

File 468-5, part 2

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - School Establishment - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Plans. 1908 - 1912.

File 468-5, part 3

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration -Plans. 1912 - 1918.

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Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Inc rial School - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration. 1919 - 1923.

File 468-5, part 5

Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration. 1923 - 1927.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 2)

Pepartment of Andian Affairs,

Indian Boy at Muncey Took This Stee

Instant Boy at Auncey Took This Step.

In Escape.

St. Thomas Only Ian, ET.—John Faul, an Indian, aged 16 years, is under arrest on a charge of attempting to burn down the Mount Elpin Indian Institute, at Muncey: It was only due to the strenuous work of the limitates and officials of the place that the whole place is not now a heap of ashed.

As a reason lot so doing he said he believed he would not have to stay at the institute if the buildings were burned.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Velume 6206, file 468-5, part 2)

Ostava, July 6, 1908.

Rov. Size

I have toacknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the Sith ults, advicing the Department that
the kitchen at the Mt. Elgin Institute was set on fire
by Lettis Beaver, of the Alamick band, who says that
minified Fisher told her to do so, and asking for
instructions.

In reply I beg to say that you should will be davised as to what notion to take in this matter later on.

Your obodient Servante

J.D. GOLEAN

Seesofary.

For. T. George,

Ht. Wigin Institute.

REPORT OF THE MOUET ELGIN 18371FUTE YEAR ENDING MARCH S1. 1911.



BUILDIEGS.

furnishings have been gut in and some improvements made, the most important being new ranges for the kitchens, some good furniture and the installation of an electric light plant, which furnishes light for the main buildings, cottages, laundry, stables and barns. The light plant was put in by the Government at a cost of about \$2,400, also \$500 for the material in a new hen house.

CLASS ROOMS.

The half day system is carried out for most of the older scholars, while many of the younger attend the class rooms all day.

The teachers are doing good work and up-to-date methods are in vogue, especially in the senior rooms, where a class of nine are in preparation for the Entrance examinations in July:

LIVE STOCK.

There are at present 198 head of cattle, 31 horses, and 74 pigs, all looking well for this season of the year. 70 cattle, 10 horses and 40 pigs, and a total increase of about \$6,000 in the value of the live stock have been added since July, 1909.

CHILDREN AND STAFF.

The health of all has been very good, the doctor's bill and drug account being only \$55 for the past year and nine months.

The conduct of the pupils has been worthy of praise, and they have greatly assisted the Principal and his staff to create a homeaike atmosphere about the entire Institution. There are 102 children in attendance.

The staff and salaries paid are as follows:-

Principal, Teacher, Stockman,	Rev. S. A. McVitty. Mr. J. R. Littleproud, Mr. B. Bentley,	\$1,000 480 400
Janitor and Gardener, Carpenter, Farmer, Matron, Jr. Teacher, Cook,	Mr. C. Willsia, Mr. J. Kapayo, Mr. Geo. Hill, Hiss L. McKinley, Hiss M. McLachlin, Hiss Annie Stever, Hiss J. Penny,	360 525 650 300 300 240 240
*		84,265

FIRANCIAL CONDITION.

The business of the Institute has been well conducted. All accounts have been settled monthly on a cash basis, goods have been purchased at a fair market value and the cattle and products of the farm sold at a fair market price. The management of the milk cows is worthy of mention. The Institute has been kept in meat, butter and milk and the cream sold has averaged over \$200 a month. The profits on the sale of the live stock have been good. The Principal has returned to the Mission Rooms the \$500 voted him by the Board for cattle in 1909, all accounts are paid up to date, and there is a balance of \$139.50 in the bank.

FIRANCIAL STATEMENT.

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1911.

	Redeipts.	Dieburgemente
Cash on hand, April 1, 1910,	\$1,450.21	
Missionary Society,	10,003.00	31
Sale of Cattle,	5,222.85	
	2,117.50	
" horses,	1,474.53	
" " ofeam.	2,285,08	
" from Farm and Garden,	1,511,56	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
" of Sundries.	660.47	
Annuities,	128.65	
Rent from Indians,	500.00	
Salaries.		\$4,068.09
Clothing		1,159.65
700d.		1,957.66
Fuel and Light,		753.24
Suilding and Ropairs,		180.71
House Equipment,		1, 751.96
Farm & Garden stock,		12,881.39
Transport, freight, etc.		123.26
Transport, froignt, out		226.10
Extra labor,		909.90
Miscellancous. Balanco in Bank, Harch 1911.		159.50

THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THIS INSTITUTE.

I paid a visit to Ottawa and discussed the basis of a new agreement with the Deputy Minister and the Superintendent of the Education Department. Two propositions were under consideration:

1. The Church to make certain needed repairs to bring the school into Class "A". This world involve an outley of about \$5.000; also to keep the plant in repair from year to year. This would involve about \$1.000 a year, and the Government would give a grant of \$100 per

pupil for 100 pupils.

2. The Government to make all needed repairs and in so doing provide accommodation for 125 pupils, and keep the entire plant in repair; also pay the rents, which have averaged \$900 per year for the last even years, and give the management \$80 per pupil

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Velume 6206, file 468-5, part 2)

up to the number of 125.

It was arranged by the Department that Mr. Scott should meet me at Muncey and decide on the proposition we would accept.

The second proposal was accepted and the contract will be made out by the Department. This, with good management, will place the Institution on a self-sustaining basis.

The following are the needed repairs to place the school in Class "A":-

- 1. Pire Escapes Pole.
- 2. The closets in the four dormitories to be set in cement and enclosures make.
- 3. A Boys Building to provide class rooms, boys' recreation room boys' wash room, bath-tubs and shower baths, and laystory.
- 4. More bathing and washing accommodation for the girls.
- Steam plant to supply heat for all the buildings and necessary power.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I Ferries

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

S. R. McVitty, Principal

Muncey, Ont. March 21st. 1913,

The Secretary,

Department of Ind.Affairs, Ottawa.

Dear Sir :-

Following our conversation of a few days ago, I am submitting to the Department receipted accounts for some necessary expenditure, not officially authorised, but absolutely necessary.

We are doing all in our power to raise the School in every respect to the highest standard. We are so near London and St. Thomas, and near the main road for tourists that all through the summer we have a great crowd of visitors, and especially Americans, that in justice to all concerned we feel things must be kept up. We are now engaged painting the barns and out buildings and the Missionary Society has given permission to put in real good furniture. May I suggest that if the Department will pay for material, we will do all the work, and if necessary pay for skilled labour. Do the best you can for us, we are doing our best to help ourselves.

I am, Down Sir,
Respectfully Yours,

A. Milly

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)



Mt.-Elgin Industrial Institute

S. R. McBitty, Principal



Muncey, Ont. April 10th. 1913

The Secretary,

Dep. of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.



Dear Sir:-

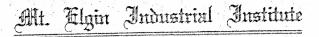
In reply to yours of the 3rd. inst., permit me to say,

- 1. The work was absolutely necessary. Practically nothing had been done to the Principal's apartments for years.
- 2.My wife intended having a few friends visit her in the Spring, and wanted her house at least decent. She has, since coming here, served this school in almost every capacity, from matron to cook, as necessity demanded, and without a cent of renuneration.
- 3. The carpenters were on the ground, they had the flooring left over and offered it at mill prices laid down here. Mr. Brown, who has done practically all the painting, and decorating for years, was about to move to Detroit, we had barely time to get the work done before he left. It is almost impossible to get really good workmen to come out here when there is so great demand for them in the city.
- 4. All this came upon me suddenly, and had I waited for permission of the Department, these men would have been gone and we could not have got the work done. I simply did what is often done, in fact what often has to be done, do the thing that is necessary and hope for the best in the matter of having it recognized.

Since the new arrangement was entered into, we have spent hundreds of dollars on small necessary repairs which we

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)





S. R. McBitty, Principal

Munch, Dit 5

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have not reported at all.

We know our action, in this case was irregular, therefore as a penalty upon ourselves, we offered to pay ½ the account. At the present time we are painting the barns and stables, the paint has cost us about \$150.00, and we are paying good wages to pur mechanic to superintend the work. It is a great job and the Department ought to feel proud of the plant here. Neither a Government or Church can afford to be identified with a broken down affair.

Give us a good generous settlement of this matter, paint and all, and we will promise faithfully not to offend again.

Ask Mr.Inspector Mc.Gibbon, who has been here recently, what he thinks of the work being done.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)





Ottawa, July 16, 1913.

MENDERALDUM.

Mr. Pedley,-

In accordance with instructions I visited the Mount Elgin Institute on June 26th.

I looked carefully over the new wings on the main building and found everything in good order and am satisfied that a good job has been made. All the buildings and surroundings are in a splendid condition and are a credit to the Department and to the management of the school.

There are a few matters in connection with the Institute which I wish to bring to your attention. Some months ago the Hobbs Hardware Company supplied some glass for the school and the account was forwarded to the Department. In the meantime the firm drew at sight on the Principal and he honoured the draft. When the cheque was drawn by the Department it was sent to the firm and returned by them, but up to the present time Mr. McVitty has not been reimbursed. He should be paid this money as it is a legitimate charge against the Department.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

There has been considerable correspondence also in regard to the boiler. You will recollect that Mr. McVitty was instructed to purchase a boiler for the laundry from Messrs. George White and Sons. This firm, however, did not have a suitable boiler in stock and advised him to go to Messra. E. Leonard and Sons. As the matter was extremely urgent Mr. McVitty made the purchase from the last mentioned firm without authority from the Department. Up to the present time the Department has not paid the account and has informed Mr. McVitty that he will have to settle with the firm in question. In connection with this matter and that of certian materials for repairs to the Principal's residence, to which I shall refer later on in this report, I think Mr. McVitty has had a good lesson and that in future he will not make any purchases or incur any expenditure of this kind without the express authority of the Department and I would recommend that the boiler be paid There is no question as to the reasonableness of the paid Mr. McVitty also incurred an expenditure of some

\$600.00 in flooring, painting and paper ing the Principal's and painting residence and flooring the officers' dining room. These the barns and stables.

rooms were floored in soft wood before and the oak flooring put in by the Principal has added greatly to their appearance and will last for ymars. There is no doubt that the

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

the repairs made by Mr. McVitty were quite necessary, but he again made the mistake of doing this work without getting authority.

The painting of the stables so far as it has been done has added very greatly to their appearance and will also be a protection against the weather.

I may add that the Methodist Missionary Society spent approximately \$1600.00 in new furnishings for the Principal's residence and it was quite natural, therefore, that the general appearance of the rooms should be in keeping with the furniture.

I would recommend also that the accounts in connection with the residence be paid and also for the material for the painting of the barns.

I was very much series with the great improvement in the management of this school since Mr. McVitty took charge. There is no doubt that he is an able manager and performing a usef ul work for the Department in the education of the Indian children attending the Institute. Their farm is one of the best in the province and, as I said before, the buildings and surroundings generally are a wredit to all concerned.

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part-3)

Time one of the state of the st

Rovd, Sir,-

ing work on the buildings at the Mount Elgin Industrial Institute, I beg to transmit herewith cheques Nes. 1648.1647, and 1648 in payment of vouchers which you submitted. Cheque 1646 is in payment of vouchers, which amount respectfully to \$82.35 and \$462.70, which were paid by the Mount Elgin Institute.

It is desired that you will return to the Department for payment Mesers. Leonard & Sons' account and also the account for painting the stable in connection with the Institution.



Your obedient servant,



Asst. Secretary.

Rove. S. R. Moviety, Principal, Nount Elgin Institute, Muncey, Gno.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

Rev. Sir,-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 31st ultimo, reporting the fire which occurred at the Mount Elgin Institute. The telegram reads as follows:-

"Our entire barns and contents destroyed by fire "please notify insurance Co and send up a man and "policies to meet their appraiser no one hurt."

In reply, I beg to say that the Department is w writing the Indian Agent, Mr. H. Janes, and also communicating with Mr. McIntyre of St. Thomas and Mr. Trueman of Strathroy, Insurance Agents who placed risks on the buildings. Arrangements are being made to have Mr. Janes and the Insurance Agents meet at the institute on Wednesday, June 9th, in order that an equitable adjustment may be made with regard to payment for the damaged caused by fire to the building;

Your obedient servent,

I. D. McLean

Assistant Deputy and Secretary.

Rev. S. R. McVitty,
Principal, Mount Elgin Institute,
Muncey, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

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Mt. Algin Industrial Institute

S. R. McBitty, Principal



Dur John D

Muncey, Ont., June 3rd. 1918

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The Secretary,

Dept. of Indian Affairs, OTTAWA. ONT.

Dear Sir:-

Re our terrible fire of Sunday, permit me to make the following report:-

1. The fire was started by little Isaiah Muskrat letting off a firecreaker under a pile of straw. (Some one had given the pupils fire creakers on Friday, at our pie-nic). He had it in a little tim cam, and thought he was hiding where he came would see him. I was at home myself, and every officer was right here. We saw the fire inside tem minutes after it started. Hundreds of people, including almost every Indian in the neighbourhood, were with us in a very short time. The utmest we could do was to save a couple of horses, and a gow other animals. We lost about twenty-five head in all, including a very valuable horse.

Gur greatest effort was to save the annex and main building. We did so by beating the fire back from the woodshed and laundry, both of which were on fire several times.

I never saw men work harder than the Indians did until every backet of water was exhausted. We also had a

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

Mt. Algin Industrial Institute



S. R. McBitty, Principal

Muncey, Ont., 191

small chemical engine, which we purchased some time ago. It proved of great service in beating the fire out of the laundry and wood shed roof, and a great pile of wood stored in the yard near the shed.

So great was the danger to the main buildings at times that the consensus of opinion led us to remove a large part of the centents out into the lawn, but, at the most cruicial memont the wind veered from the East almost due North, and this, of course threw the flames in the opposite direction, and so our. main building, annex, and laundry are practically unhurt, and school is going on as usual.

The children feel very serry for that has eccurred, (I have sought in every way to impress them with the serious--ness of it), and were rejoiced to learn this morning that we hope to re-build our barns right away. They love the animals, especially the sews. I was much touched with the pleading of seme boys not to sold the covs. They know them every one by name, and some beys risked their lives in getting a few out of the burning buildings. The greater part of the cows had just come up to the barus for milking, but were not tied up, so they escaped.

Of ocurse all our implements, machinery, and tools. also harness, hay, straw, and about 1000 bus. of grain were destroyed.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

Mt. Algin Industrial Institute

S. R. MeNitty, Principal

Muncey, Ont.,..

191

way as soon as possible. Our crops will be upon us soon, and, to lose them would almost drive us to the wall.

I am writing representatives of zeveral firms, to give us information as to the best kind of barns, probable cost, etc., all of which I will submit to you at the earliest moment.

I made my report to the Department on Wednesday morning. I hope it will clearly show there was no wilful act, or even neglect on the part of anyone in the matter. I called the boys all together on Saturday morning, and had them destroy all the firecrackers I could find, also warned them of the danger. Isaiah had some hidden away. He is a very small boy, and only in school a short time, and I feel sure did not intend any wrong.

Again thanking you

I am, Dear Mr. Soott,

Very sincerely Yours,

S.T. Motelly



CONTRACTORS



Toronto July 14th. 1915.

Dominion Government

470972

Dep't. Indian Affairs

Ottawa, Ont.

Re new farm and Dairy Bldgs.

Dear Sirs:-

We are informed that you have had plans prepared for a new building and we would like to have the opportunity of figuring on same. We could let you have a tender for General Contract or for the Mason work separate.

If you would let us know where we could secure a set of plans and specifications, or if you would be kind enough to send them to us, we would be pleased to send you our marked check to guarantee the safe return of same.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply, we beg to remain,

Yours truly,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3)

155001-5 Lime, Stone, Cement and Bricks. A. E. Ponsford, Lime RESIDENCE 108 ELGIN ST., PHONE 301 OFFICE 605 TALBOT ST., PHONE 379 BRICK-YAM, PHONE 692 Muson, Contractor to Coment Worker St. Thomas, Ont., August 5-1915. 417688 L. D. McLean, Esq., Assistant Deputy and Secretary, Ottawa, Ont. Dear Sir: -Received your letter of August 3rd with amended blue prints which I have forwarded to the Metallic Shingle and Siding Company of Preston, who are getting out : steel work for Mount Elgin. I am agraid that the greater portion of this work is already gone through their shops. I have instructed them that if there was anything that they wanted to know in connection with the steel for this building, to take it up with you direct as it will save considerable time. We are getting along very nicely with work at Mount Elgin, Yours truly, A. E. Ponsford, Limited, per at Bonsford A. E. P. /M. M. Indian Affairs. (RG/10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 3) PUBLIC ARCHIVES ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES CANADA

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 4)

Mount Elgin Indian Residential School

S. R. McVITTY, Principal

155001

Muncey, Ont. March 7th. 192 2

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r. pundah C. scatt,

Deputy Supt. General of Indian Affairs,

/Sttawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Scott:-

he and Dr. Manning laid before you our request for a primary school building at Muncey, and that you are giving the matter favorable consideration. The need is very great. I could mention a large number of children in this part of Ontario who are really neglected. Several of them children of ex-service men. We are overcrowded here now, and cannot admit anymore.

Mr. Abraham has already taken or sent up to the Soo about fifteen pupils, who really should be under our care. It is a long way to send them, and cuts them off from their own people.

Mr.Ferrier's estimate of \$75000.00 is too high. Building is much cheaper, and I am quite sure a suitable building could be erected for \$40000.00. We do not need a palace, but comfortable suitable quarters. The superintendency could be carried on from this office, without additional expense, and the resources of our farm and farm equipment would be available at first cost.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 4)

Mount Elgin Indian Residential School

S. R. McVITTY, Principal

Muncey, Ont. 192

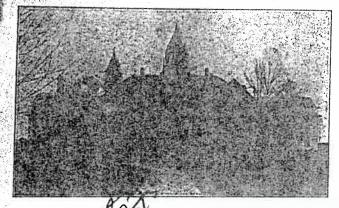
The different districts of the Methodist church in the London Conference, notably Chatham and Sarnia, are taking the matter up officially and pressing the Mission Rooms to take some action. I sincerely hope some thing can be done this year, even to make a good start.

I am, Dear Dr. Scott,

Yours sincerely,

S.R. mytett

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 4)



192001-5

Mount Elgin Indian Residential School

S. R. McVITTY, Principal



Muncey, Ont. Sept. IIth. 192 2

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for myching

the Secretary,

Dept.of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

About three years ago the tower on this school was struck by lightning and seriously damaged. At that time I pointed out to the Depagtment the advisability of having the metal ornaments on top of each of the three towers grounded by suitable wire. No steps were taken to do so. This summer a prominent builder was visiting us and was amazed that we should allow a day to pass without having ground wires attached. We did not in any way draw his attention to the matter.

On Wednesday night last, a furious electric storm swept over this District. The main tower was struck and quite shattered. This took place in the night. Fortunately it did not catch fire, else the building would undoubtidly have been destroyed and possibly some lives lost.

We notified the Insurance Company. Repairs should be made soon as possible, and most assuredly the wiring should be done at earliest possible moment.

Yours respectfully,

ndian Affairs. (RG 10, Velume 6206, file 468-5, part 4)

Ottawa, Sept. 30, 1922.

Sir:-

I have yours of the 23rd instant, concerning the adequacy of the protection afforded by lightning rods and recommending to this Department that the Mt. Elgin Institute building be equipped.

In reply I beg to state that the Department is favourably disposed to provide the needed protection and that we are writing to the principal of the school, instructing him to invite tenders for the work.

Your obedient servent.

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J. D. McLean, Asst. Deputy & Secretary.

G.D. Finlayson, Esq., Supt. of Insurance, Dept. of Insurance, Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 4)

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Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 5)

7-0-5

Mount Elgin Institut Muncey, Ontario January 29th

The Secretary,

Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir;

At the time of our diphtheria epidemic last fall the disease invaded the house of our farm instructor. One of his children took it, then his wife who died in a few days leaving him with four small children.

We have done all we could to help him out. Paying his funeral expenses and etc, and he has bravely carried on. His children have been scattered among relatives since their mother's death, and he hasbeen keeping batch. He is now getting a housekeeper and wishes to take his children home again.

I was all through his house to day. It breatly needs papering and inside painting. Not only because it is so shabby, but with a lot of loose paper it is mostunganitary. There would be much risk to his little children returning, and through them to the whole school.

The kitchen has never been plastered. Just bare lath, And the living room floor is wretched. Pine boards about 10" wide, which have been in uso probably twenty years.

I would respectfully request therefore, that for sanitary and economic reasons a new floor be put in the living room, the kitchen plastered, the inside woodwork painted, and the walls covered with a cheap servicable paper. The total cost not to exceed \$200.00 We can get expert labour at very moderate waged just now.

Yours respectfully,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 5)

A Maria

Ottawa, February 2, 1925.

Regerend Sir:

I have your letter of the 29th ultimo, with reference to repairs required to the farmer's residence at the Mt. Elgin Indian Residential School. In reply I have to authorize you to expend the sum of not more than \$200 for interior decorating and for a floor in the living room. Please secure competitive prices before purchasing any materials and keep time sheets, in duplicate. covering any labour engaged.

Del gel

Your obedient servent,

J. D. McLean.
Asst. Deputy & Secretary.

Rov. S. R. McVitty,
Principal,
Mt. Elgin Indian Res. School,
Mancey, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RC 10, Volume 6206, file 468-5, part 5)