

656-5 URGENT

132-2-1  
Oct. 25, 1948.

61  
Colonel Heary:  
Lac La Ronge Indians Residential School: 27037

Efforts are being made by all concerned to compensate for factors that have marred the opening weeks. A tidal wave of pupils came into an inadequately prepared, equipped and staffed institution, compelling various make-shifts and improvisations that must not be permitted to continue any longer than it takes to correct them, having regard, of course, to the money available.

The increasing incidence of mumps is an added strain and indicates the necessity of setting up one wing of Bldg. 21 as a thoroughly adaptable infirmary. A suggested plan for this is being finalized.

The dormitory situation was examined by day and by night and attention drawn to matters which must be righted:

Air-space per pupil; ventilation

unnecessary heating and lighting and use. "LOCK THEM OUT DURING THE DAY."

Shortage of beds and mattresses.

ELKHORN CAN SUPPLY 45 SINGLE BEDS ONLY  
WILL YOU PLEASE ADVISE RE MATTRESSES? 50?

Bldgs 29, 30, 31 will suffice, if used solely as dormitories, for the authorized pupils, plus supervisors, plus necessary storage space.

Bldg. 21  
Married staff quarters, and the principal's residence, Bldg. 32, are not ready for occupancy, but the carpenter is expected to return to-morrow. The furnace may be ready to operate to-morrow. Mr. Waterhouse will then proceed to adjusting the plumbing to serve the infirmary - the pipes separate -

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and amenities for the staff, separated from the pupils. The "scale of issue" to pupils of toilets, basins, etc. in the infirmary has to be reduced, but the movement of sick pupils to washrooms can be distributed over longer periods than ~~is~~ possible in dormitories. A stove is to be added in this bldg so that food may be brought in bulk from the main kitchen. There seem to be plenty of stoves in the camp.

Incidentally I have counselled against uncrating the new stoves (ranges) designated for LAC LA RONCE school. They are stored in Mr. Supt. Jones' warehouse.

Similarly I have requested that the huge bake oven recently received be not uncrated until we have had a chance to study the economics of bread making here, and have made a well-considered choice of a site - if any. This oven is too ponderous a thing with which to guess wrong.

The drill hall and its lean-to's have been my biggest disappointment. If you will refer to my diagram submitted long before work commenced you will appreciate my surprise on seeing:

1. A young mountain of coal on the main floor of the gym. This, along with some neatly stacked lumber and a conglomeration of useful and useless things and materials effectively shuts off use by the children and makes it necessary to provide covered play space elsewhere - but not in the dormitories!

2. One carload of coal was dropped in the doo. of the "coal" lean-to which is thus crippled. A lot of stuff is supposed to come out

of there - masonry materials, etc., said to be wanted by the C.V.T.S.

3. A garage with an imposing wide door where the laundry was indicated

4. The laundry sited and outlets cut in the concrete so far over that the toilets intended for the girls were obliterated. There is only one toilet, basin and shower left and these are part of a self-contained apartment ("stage dressing rooms") which has been assigned to Mr. Waterhouse, the engineer, on whom we depend for the plumbing and mechanical work. He is a valuable man.

5. Mr. W's workshop occupies the space where the bake-oven might have been.

6. The principal has an office-cum-bedroom in one of the rooms intended for sewing and repairing - actually the one called "storage".

This, of course, is only temporary. The "sewing" room is operating, but the distance from it to where the laundry will likely be now may require a complete change in the set-up of vocational instruction for girls. These linoleum covered floors, the good heating and lighting, must not be abused. So far I have heard no mention of library, reading or hobby rooms. These <sup>rooms</sup> might be thus exploited.

An alternative for the "laundry" has to be found and the answer seems to be that it should go in the kitchen building (33) to which we hope to get title - perhaps we already have been granted this. The kitchen buildings are #33 and #34.

The factors in favour of installing the laundry in the second kitchen are:

1. Concrete floor space 40 ft by 22' 11" former site reduced to 22' 8" by 26' 6"
2. Four-flue approved chimney convenient. Chimney would have to be built at gym.
3. Water tank (L=10' D=3' 6") already set up in kitchen. Too big to move through exits. The smaller tank has been removed.
4. Ceiling is higher in the kitchen
5. Clean hanging space; drill hall dirty.

II Only a washer and a drier have come from the factory. N.B. The washer has one broken part; must be welded or replaced.

I advise that the new machinery be set up and the steam and water lines laid on so that the machines from St. Albans can be brought in later and added in an efficient assembly line so that all the machine laundering can be done at the barracks. This would involve no interruption of the laundry processes and should when completed supply a dependable plant capable of operating at varying degrees of full potential according to need.

St. Albans should soon abandon machine laundering as their lay-out is cramped and inconvenient; they will not have upper-grade girls to work; and the withdrawal of machinery will permit advantageous staff adjustments.

The belt-driven Chapleau machinery would involve too much expense or hazard to instal here.

5.

Dishes and dishwashing are at present a dreary business. Washing is being done in little dish pans on the dining tables. A high priority job is to connect the hot water pipes to the triple ~~basin~~ basin sink and handle the dishes and cutlery (when the supply becomes adequate) in the manner prescribed for institutions. The matron (Mrs Wood) and the chef de cuisine Miss Sheppard know what is required. Moose Fort school has the equipment (trays, racks, etc.) Perhaps more is available from War Assets.

The same ladies are considering a plan to use cafeteria service. In any case more kitchen equipment is necessary to remove the Ruben Goldberg cartoon features. Needed are:

1. Work tables of suitable height and top surface - there may be some local stuff which we can convert. We shall try.
2. Large cooking kettles with drain cocks.  
Five gallons of water and vegetables weigh 50<sup>+</sup> lb.
3. Mobile wagons of stove height 2'10" to transport loaded pots.
4. The usual kitchen tools - their carving set is a menace.
5. Vegetable peeler
6. Bread slicer - but I don't want to encourage the use of bread.
7. Other articles endorsed by inspecting dietitians.

The local school superintendent (Mr. Piercy) told me that the children were being badly fed. I was able to assure him that untroubled inspection of meals at all times has satisfied me that the children get plenty of good food.

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Playroom and assembly space are fast-approaching necessities. We shall try to supply these in the cook-house buildings (33 + 34) — a wing of 33 for boys, of 34 for girls

The chapel space used in Bldg. 30 must be restored to service as part of a dormitory to meet air-space requirements. I have suggested using the other wing of 33 as a chapel, but the question of how to heat it (and the "play-assembly-rumpus" rooms) arises. Formerly, like the dining-room, they were "heated" (maybe not) by two small stoves with long hot chimneys of tin pipe — an unsuitable installation where horseplay is inevitable. (The supervisors will have to be alert to prevent the children from swinging from the pipes of the hot-water heating system in the dormitories. Another damaging activity is the picking of wire from bed-springs to make catapults. Many other schools where children kill time in dormitories are similarly afflicted. Vigorous physical activities must be supplied and the dormitories used only at such times and temperatures that will induce no dawdling in getting into bed or getting up.)

Accordingly, damage-proof play space, adequately warmed when only necessary is, like the chapel, a priority. Hot air heating by readily controllable apparatus is indicated. Heating apparatus, situated in the kitchen out of harm's way and forcing hot air into the wings by one guarded vent, would be ideal. Can our heating engineer suggest an installation that comes ready-made, needing only an extension which any tinsmith

can supply? For his office at Ft. Chipewyan the agent gets complete satisfaction from a compact "Durotherm" oil heater. It would be economy to spend as much as \$500 apiece for two such units. If this experiment in education fails, such heaters would be acceptable at many other points where coal is costly.

Each wing has an air-space volume of about 25,000 cubic feet, reducible in the case of the chapel by partitioning to half that figure. The chapel, with the chancel sealed off would serve as a visual education centre and concert hall.

There are no music-making machines for the staff and pupils. I propose the purchase of: or acquisition somehow of  
 an inexpensive chapel organ  
 a record player (radio) for the primary classes. The teacher has the special records.  
 a few small radios - these cost very little when obtained by the Department.  
 a piano to shuttle between the dining-room and the girls' assembly room  
 a small piano or harmonium for the six-room academy.

Something might be done with those museum piece pianos at the Mohawk institute where also there are some surplus beds and furniture that simply congest the attic which I have suggested should be sleeping quarters. But there is no use sending freight to join the Chaplain's mess in the drill hall. Some of this stuff is useless and other things, though

usable, are a menace to the existence of anything good because anything, animate or inanimate, which shows any weakness gets picked at and done to death in short order by these people and the habit of destroying is progressively strengthened. I have had to impound their baseballs from which, for the lack of a few stitches in time, the covers had fallen off and the string was unravelling. When compelled to, they retrieved the covers from their vast playing field.

Some of this sort of thing could be prevented or overcome by a more adequate staff in numbers and quality - and the Principal is likely to make some suggestions. For the present I am concentrating on those inadequacies of plant and equipment which it would seem to be the policy and duty of our Department to set right. The sooner we do it, the sooner we shall be in a position to request the removal of ineffectuals if it is demonstrable that there are any. A day-school installation of comparable size scattered over a few northern reserves would have involved an initial outlay of \$100,000 with no guarantee that it would exert anything like equal conditioning influence on as many children. The fraction of the sum quoted which we undertook to spend has not yet been fully expended and I have requested that the pace be accelerated while acknowledging the commendable economy that has been practised. The utmost economy, however, may not suffice to cope with the desiderata I have recorded above.

COPY TO Regional SUPERVISOR

C. W. Clark



## Addenda:

In order to eliminate slow, time-consuming shows like hand-scrubbing of floors, moving chairs and benches back and forth there are numerous questions to which the best answers are being sought:

Flooring: On what floors to use the available linoleum.

Seating: Are there any disused churches which have surplus pews? Perhaps we could build them in with some of our lumber.

Dishes: The matron recommends plastics - like the Saskatoon refuge's?

Double-deckers: what guarantee is there that if these were supplied the school would observe the air-space rule?

Mending: after a child has demonstrated mastery of hand mending why not deal with the bulk of the chow-mending on a fast machine?

Sweeping: For expansive rooms, why not vacuum cleaners handled under supervision?

Haircutting: power clippers

Heating supervisor's rooms in dormitories - electric radiators.

etc.

CASC.

# Lac La Ronge School.

## JOBS TO BE DONE

- By Principal:
1. Get Beds and Mattresses
  2. Requisition for furniture
  3. Dormitories
  4. Chapel arrangements

- By Carpenter:
1. Principal's residence
  2. Classroom blackboards
  3. Infirmary when plumbing has been completed.
  4. Some doors and partitions in  
Laundry  
Kitchen  
Dishwashing room  
Chapel

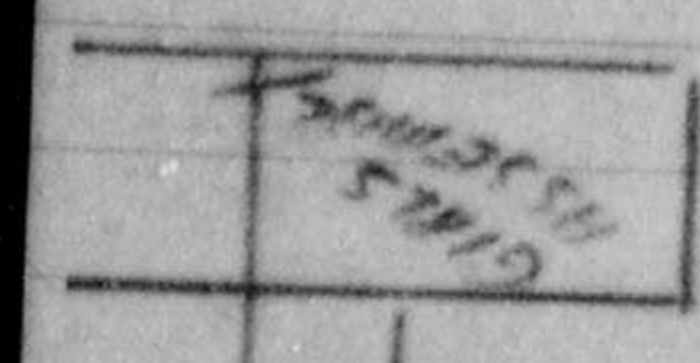
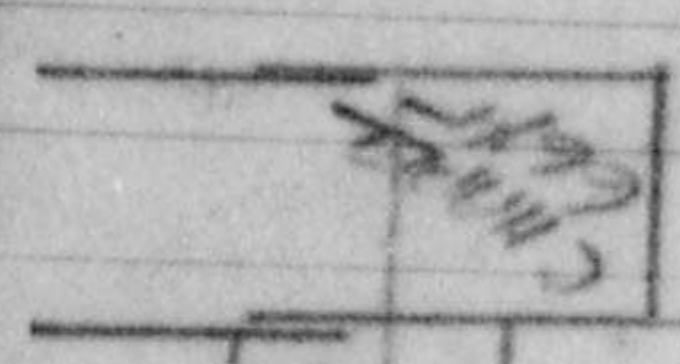
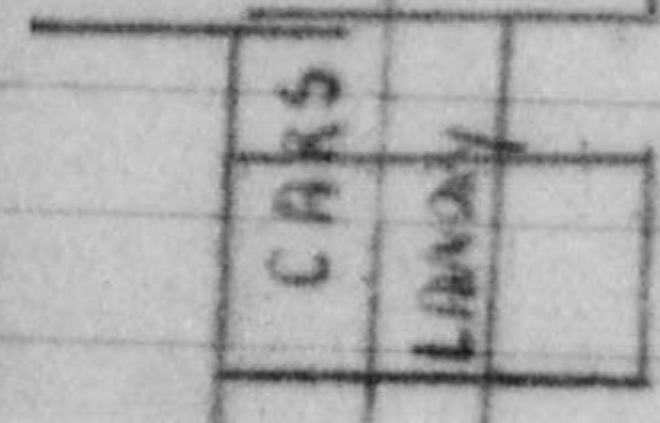
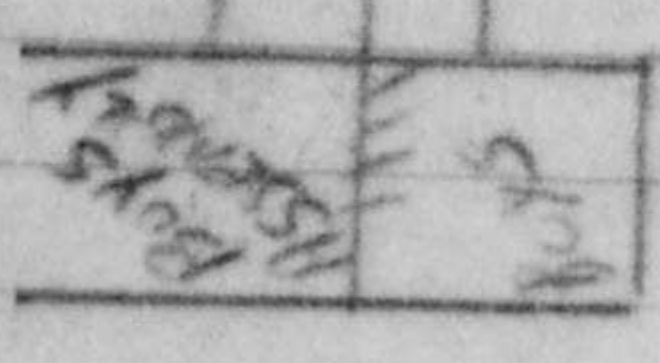
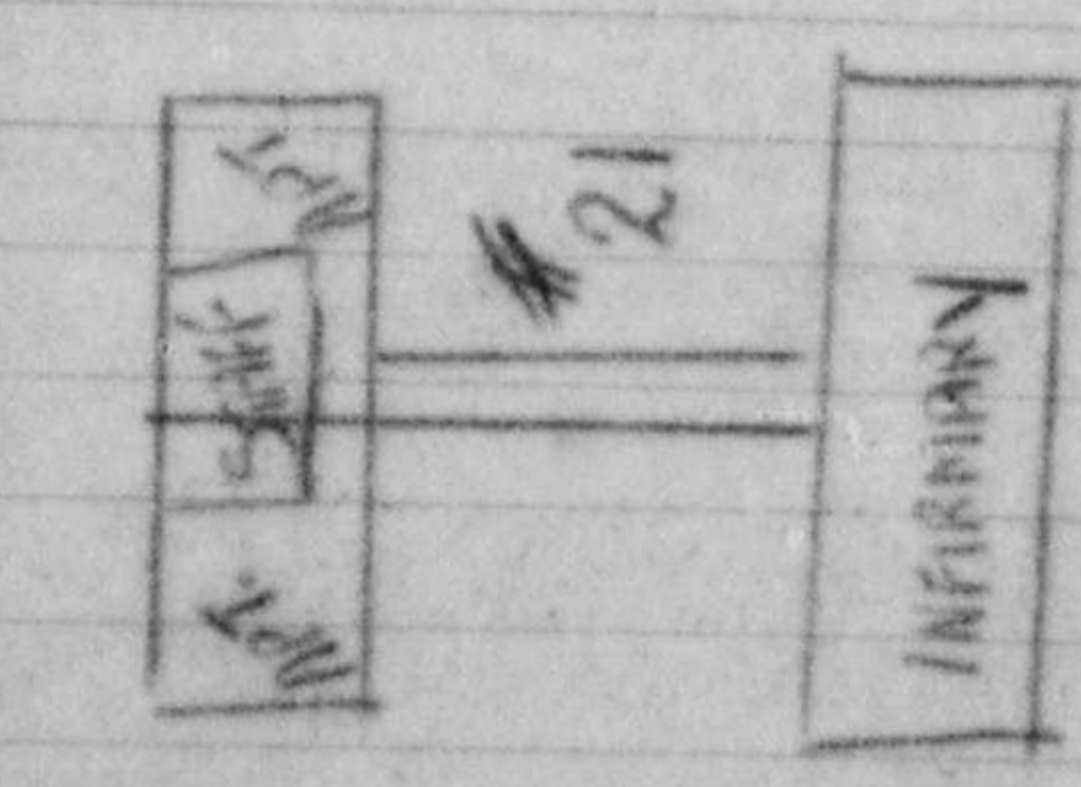
- By Pipefitter:
1. Infirmary plumbing (b) DISINFESTER
  2. Laundry on second section when we have a settled layout on paper.
  3. To check the boiler and more powerful boiler for the laundry and have it set up beside the chimney so we can decide where it should go. They need to set up both boilers.
  4. Plumbing on classroom block according to original diagram
  5. Certain alterations

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Superintendent  
Regional Supervisor  
Ottawa.

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- #24 BOYS DORM
- #29 BOYS DORM
- #30 BOYS DORM / GIRLS NEEDED
- #31 GIRLS DORM
- #32 PRINCIPAL

One dining hall suffices.  
 Assembly rooms are necessary for play and for pre-meal assembly etc., in excellent weather.

For meals I suggest boys and girls assemble in their own rooms then boys parade to girls assembly room, leave their outer garments in allotted shoes and return to dining room, returning by same route. Dishwashing rooms to be unused during day; fire low; lights out. Food duty dishes.

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