

119695-1

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE



Duck Lake, Sask.

Sept. 10th. 1917. 191

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
No. 1620
ALSO
TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

503873

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a letter received from the Reverend H. Delmas, Principal of the Duck Lake Boarding school here, in which he reports upon a matter, which from a serious point of view, can hardly be surpassed.

The report is such that no comment from me is necessary. I trust however, that the Department will lose no time in advising me what steps to take in order to remove the danger that threatens the school, and the lives of those residing there.

Apparently the boy referred to in the last paragraph of the Principal's letter is undoubtedly in need of some punishment that would at least deter others from attempting to follow his example.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Indian Agent.

The Secretary,

Department of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa., Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6305, file 652-1, part 1)

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*Records
To copy telegram*

Ottawa, September 18, 1917.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant and your telegram of the 18th instant, in which you inform the Department that certain boys at the Duck Lake Boarding School have been attempting to set fire to the buildings.

Before advising you of what action to take in this matter, the Department would like to know the names and the ages of the boys to whom the principal refers in his letter. On receipt of this information the Department will be in a position to advise you what further action you should take in the matter.

When replying you might also give a brief report on the present conditions at this school and state if the discipline is all that it should be.

Your obedient servant

J. D. McLEAM

Assistant Deputy and Secretary

C. P. Schmidt, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Duck Lake, Sask.

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504099

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE

Duck Lake, Sask.



IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
No. 1664
TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

Sept. 17th. 1917. 191

Sr,—

Confirming my Telegram of the 17th. inst., which reads, "Reference my letter tenth inst. re. fire Duck Lake Boarding School, Two conflagrations since. Straw stack burnt on 11th., and yesterday fire discovered in boys recreation room under stairs leading to Dormitory, at 5 p.m. Fire extinguished, small damage."

I have the honour to inform you that on Tuesday, the 11th. inst. at 8 p.m., after the hired man and the boys had returned to the *home* from their evening chores, a straw stack situated about two or three hundred yards from the stables was seen to be burning. The staff turned out, and while unable to save the stack, kept the fire from spreading. The origin of the fire is unknown.

On Sunday, the 16th. at 5 p.m. one of the pupils heard what he thought was the crackling of a fire; he called other boys, and they discovered smoke coming from under the stairs in the boys recreation room. This stairs leads to the boys' Dormitory, this stairway is enclosed and the doors were locked.

The boys at once gave the alarm and the fire, which was yet small was extinguished. Some damage was done by chopping holes in the floors, and by the amount of water, two lines of hose having been turned on the fire.

The origin of this fire, is also a mystery. The Principal of the school and the staff are greatly distressed by these occurrences which in view of the report recently submitted, can hardly be wondered at.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Secretary,

Department of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Agent.

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OBLATE FATHERS

PROVINCIAL HOUSE

COR. 10TH. STREET & VICTORIA AVE.

L. J. G.
et
M. I.

EDMONTON, ALTA. September 17th. 1917

D. Scott Superintendent general
of Indian Affairs

504204

Dear Sir,

Father Delmas principal of the Duck Lake Indian school has informed you of conduct of one of his pupils, who tried to set the school on fire. As it is not for the first time that this same boy has shown such bad feelings, do you not think that some severe measures should be taken in order to prevent the recurrence of such criminal tentatives. It seems to me that this boy should be sent to some reformatory or even to jail, as if he is allowed to go free again, others may be tempted to imitate him, and by so doing endanger the lives of all the inmates of the school. The Indians themselves would understand the necessity of such punishment, as they know that if not checked such actions might imperil the lives of all their children.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully

H. Grandin

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NIGHT LETTER

N. L. 2

The Great North Western Telegraph Company of Canada.

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WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

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H. P. DWIGHT, President

A. McMICHAEL, Vice-Pres. and General Manager

Receiver's No.

Time Filed

Check

SEND the following NIGHT LETTER subject
to the terms printed on the back hereof,
which are hereby agreed to.

Ottawa, 22nd September, 1917.

C. P. Schmidt,
Indian Agent,
Duck Lake, Sask.

Your letter tenth and wire twenty-first, no Departmental
action called for, principal of school should take action
by laying information against culprits before a magistrate
for offence under Criminal Code and have them prosecuted.

J. D. McLean.

chg. D. I. A.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6305, file 652-1, part 1)

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Letter to Father Grandin

September 22nd. 1917.

Dear Father Grandin,

I have your letter of the 17th. instant with reference to the Duck Lake school. I am really alarmed at the state of affairs at this institution and I think some drastic steps must be taken. The responsibility, however, lies with the school authorities and I have today wired the Indian agent as follows:-

WJM

"Your letter tenth and wire twenty-first
" no Departmental action called for, principal of
" school should take action by laying information
" against culprits before a magistrate for offence
" under Criminal Code and have them prosecuted."

WJM

I think this is the best course of action to pursue as these boys must be given a salutary lesson.

Yours very truly,

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
Edmonton, Alta.

Deputy Superintendent General
Deputy Superintendent General.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6305, file 652-1, part 1)

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CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAM

All Messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form. Terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatable message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

RNP 42 COLL NL

504147

EDMONTON ALTA SEPT 22-17

SCOTT

SUPT GENL OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

OTTAWA ONT

IT IS URGENT TO TAKE ACTION ON THE LINES SUGGESTED
IN MY LETTER ABOUT DUCKLAKE INDIAN SCHOOL THE HOUSE WAS SET ON
FIRE LAST SUNDAY AND THE THRESHING OUTFIT WAS THE

OBJECT OF ANOTHER INCENDIARY ATTACK PLEASE GIVE INSTRUCTIONS

TO AGENT

GRANDIN



Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6305, file 652-1, part 1)

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119695/1

EXH
Ottawa, October 6, 1917.

Rev. Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 22nd ultimo, which reads as follows,- "It is urgent to take action on the lines suggested in my letter about Duck Lake Indian School the house was set on fire last Sunday and the threshing outfit was the object of another incendiary attack please give instructions to Agent".

In this connection I beg to refer you to letter which was sent you on the same day.

78.2.
MMS
Your obedient servant,

J. D. McLEAN
Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
Edmonton, Alta.

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No. 1725

119695-1



Indian Office

104

At Black Lake

Oct 9th 1917

MEMO.

504757

In reply to your letter of the 18th ult. # 119695-1 asking me for the names and ages of the boys who attempted to set fire to the Black Lake Boarding School. I have the honour to inform you that the boy referred to by the Principal in the last paragraph of his letter is Harry Paul, aged fourteen years. This boy comes from One Arrow Reserve, this Agency.

As regards conditions at the School or the state of discipline I do not think that there is anything ~~to~~ to be desired. The children are well clothed, well fed and seem happy. The discipline is good, a teacher is with the boys constantly, and those who work at the farm and stables do so well and seem like their former.

With reference to your telegram of the 22nd ult. regarding the above case



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Ottawa, October 16, 1917.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant in further reference to the fire at the Duck Lake Boarding School.

In reply I beg to say that, as you have already been informed, the Principal should take action against the boys who were responsible for this fire.

Your obedient servant,

S. STEWART

In Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

MS
JS
O. P. Schmidt, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Duck Lake, Sask.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6305, file 652-1, part 1)

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506055

Indian Office

No. 652-104.



1917

MEMO.

With further reference to your letters of Sept 18th, your Telegram of Sept 22nd and your letter of Oct 16th last - No 119695/1 regarding certain boys of the Black Lake Boarding School who attempted to set fire to the said school.

I have the honor to report that the Principal of the School laid information before a Justice of the Peace against one of the boys Harry Paul. This is the boy referred to in my letter of the 9th ultimo.

I have just returned from the school having been summoned there as a witness in this case.

The case was tried at the school by Miss Ethel MacLachlan a Justice specially authorized by the Dominion and Provincial Authorities to deal with juvenile delinquents. "under the juvenile delinquents act."

Harry Paul pleaded guilty - admitted having lit the match and put it in a hole in the wall where the fire was discovered, his reasons for doing

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Indian Office

At.....

19

MEMO.

So were that he was Sad. (Lamson)

The justice Miss MacLachlan committed
him to the care of the Superintendent of
neglected children, at Regina, for the pur-
pose of placing him in the Reformatory School
at Wolsely for an unspecified term.

Should the boys conduct be good
and the principal of that institution report
on him favorably, I would recommend
that after a few months, that he be taken
from the reformatory and placed in the
Hemlock Industrial School in Alberta.
Rev. Nelson Principal of the Black Lake
Boarding School here is also of this advice
and has asked me to recommend same.

I have the honor to be

The Secretary—

Department of Indian Affairs

Ottawa

Sir

Obedient Servant

Daniel O'Connor

Indian Agent

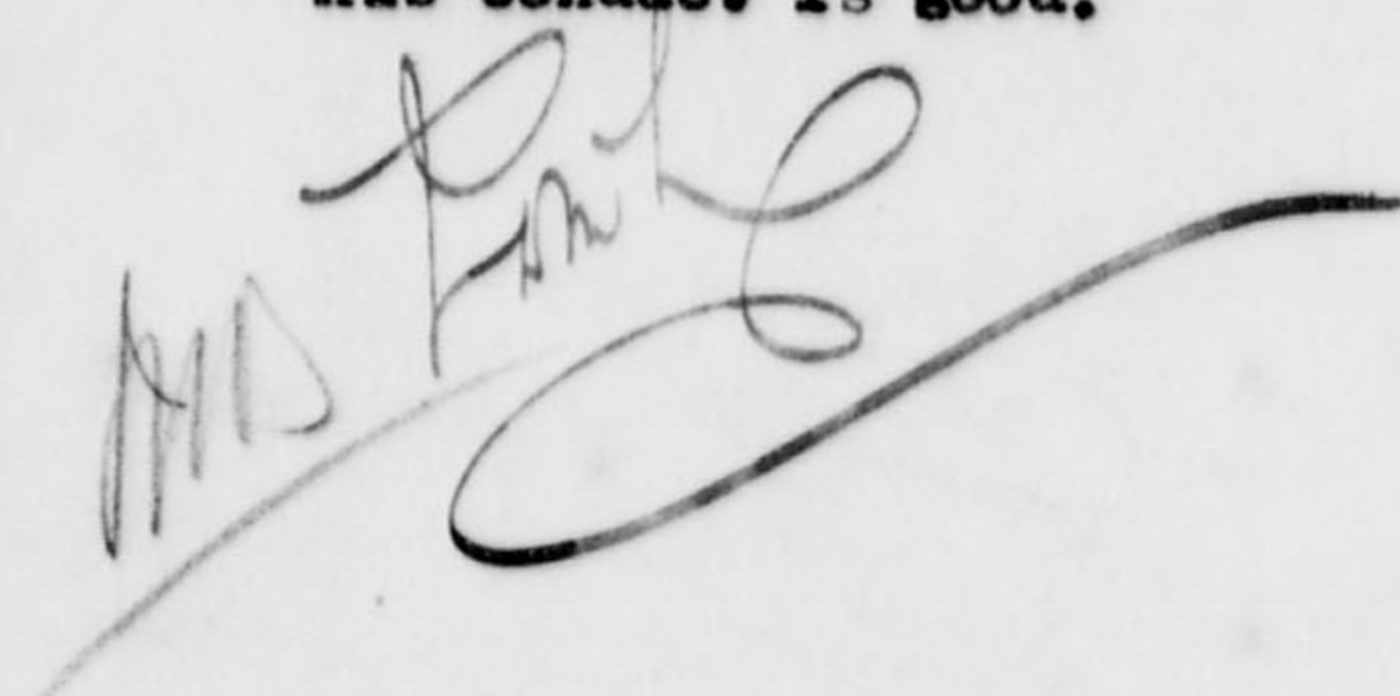
119695/1

Ottawa, December 4, 1917.

Sir,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, in which you state that Harry Paul, who set fire to the Duck Lake Boarding School, was committed by the Justice, Miss MacLachlan, to the care of the Superintendent of Neglected Children at Regina for the purpose of placing him in the reformatory school at Wolwely for an unspecified term and recommend that, should the boy's conduct be good and the Principal of that institution report on him favourably, he be taken from the reformatory after a few months and placed in the St. Joseph's Industrial School.

In reply I beg to say that the Department approves of your recommendation in this matter and he may be sent to the St. Joseph's Industrial School after a few months, if his conduct is good.



Your obedient servant,

Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

O. P. Schmidt, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Duck Lake, Sask.

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119695-1
INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE,

Duck Lake, Sask.



June 18th. 1918. 191

512494

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO
No. 2370
ALSO
TO DATE OF THIS LETTER.

[Signature]
Sir,-

Referring to your letter of December 4th. 1917, No. 119695/1 regarding Harry Paul who was committed to the Wolsley Detention Home on account of attempting to set fire to the school buildings, I have the honour to report that I am advised that, according to the report of the Principal of the Detention Home, he may now be allowed to leave.

With reference to his removal to St. Joseph's Industrial school at Dubow I beg to ask for instructions who is to take him there and who will bear the expenses &c. Whether he must pass a medical examination before being admitted to St. Joseph's, and who will attend to same.



I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature: Paul Schumacher]
Indian Agent.

The Secretary,

Department of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

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119695/1

Ottawa, June 26, 1918.

Sir,-

2370

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant in regard to Harry Paul, who was committed to the Wolsley Detention Home on account of attempting to set fire to the Duck Lake School buildings, and stating that you are advised that, according to the report of the Principal of the Detention Home, he may now be allowed to leave.

In reply I beg to say that Mr. Commissioner Graham is being written to in reference to this boy and he will advise you as to what action you should take in regard to him.

Your obedient servant,

Asst. Deputy and secretary.

C. P. Schmidt, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Duck Lake, Sask.

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