

L. J. C.
et
M. I.

Prince-Albert, le 19^e bre 1912.

À la R^{de} Sœur St Stanislas, Supre,
Delmas.

Ma R^{de} et chère Sœur Supre,

Vous attendez ma réponse et celle du Gous. d'Ottawa à votre lettre du 29^{me} nov. Dans la réunion des évêques à St Boniface le 11^e x bre dernier, il a été beaucoup question des écoles indiennes. Mgr Grouard et le R. P. Cahill, provincial du Manitoba étaient de retour d'Ottawa au sujet de ces écoles. Après avoir tout entendu, j'ai fait connaître aux évêques réunis votre désir de fermer l'école indienne de Delmas. Tous les évêques se sont récriés et m'ont prié de ne rien faire, car disent-ils, ce serait faire tort à la cause en question.

Le Gous.-indien ne cherche qu'à ouvrir les écoles du jour et à fermer les écoles pensionnats et industrielles.

La conclusion, ma chère Sœur Supre, est qu'il vous faudra continuer encore pour quelque temps au moins l'école indienne, malgré votre désir de la fermer et cela pour le bien et le triomphe de la cause commune. Voilà, ma chère Sœur la réponse que je dois vous donner pour le moment, réponse qui n'est pas ce que vous attendez. Veuillez y voir la volonté de Dieu.

Je vous bénis avec toutes vos Sœurs en me disant, votre bien dévoué en N.-S. et M. I. + Albert. C. M. I. C. de Prince-Albert.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

L. J. C.

et

M. I.

Edmonton, le 9 Janvier 1913

Mon cher Père Lacombe,

Une lettre de la Supérieure des sœurs de Delmas, m'apprenait il y a quelque temps, que Mgr. Pascal refusait de laisser fermer l'école sauvage de cette place, et ce refus avait été donné à la demande des Evêques de la Province dans leur dernière réunion à St. Boniface. Voilà une décision qui vous concerne grandement puisque l'école devait se recruter sur les réserves dont vous êtes chargé. Vous avez commencé il me semble au moins une école

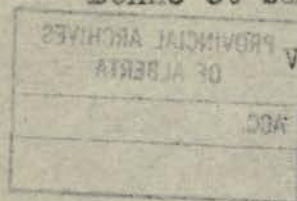
école du jour à Jack Fish, et peut-être une autre à Pound Maker. Or il résulte des entretiens de nos Evêques, qu'ils sont opposés à ces écoles du jour, et qu'ils désirent vivement que les missionnaires fassent tout en leur pouvoir pour favoriser les boarding schools contre ces écoles du jour. Je crois qu'il faudra entrer autant que possible dans les vues de nos chefs et nous occuper activement de trouver les enfants dont on a besoin pour les écoles pensionnats. Si vous avez engagé des maîtres pour vos deux écoles il faudra bien les laisser finir leur engagement, mais si pour l'une ou l'autre, vous n'aviez pas encore de maître, je vous engagerais à ne pas en chercher, mais à faire votre possible pour amener les parents à envoyer leurs enfants à l'école de Delmas. Sans doute ce sera difficile, mais si comme je le crois, vous êtes aimé des sauvages, vous arriverez encore assez facilement à obtenir d'eux qu'ils confient leurs enfants aux sœurs de l'Assomption. Quand l'engagement de vos maîtres sera terminé, il faudrait il me semble ne pas les renouveler, et encore une fois, travailler vos sauvages dans le sens désiré par tous les Evêques de la Province de St. Boniface. En fait il n'y a pas de doute que les écoles du jour donnent de pauvres résultats, et qu'il est presque impossible d'y avoir les enfants d'une manière un peu régulière. Puis ils perdent chez eux trop vite et trop facilement le peu qu'on peut leur fourrer dans la cervelle pendant les quelques heures de classe, tandis que dans les Boarding schools, restant avec les Sœurs, parlant anglais avec elles, obligés de se tenir propres, ils finissent par s'habituer à la langue, et prennent des habitudes de propreté qu'ils garderont plus longtemps. Du moment que cette ligne de conduite nous est tracée par nos Evêques, il faut nous y soumettre et je vous demande de vous y conformer de votre mieux. Vous savez pour combien d'enfants l'école de Delmas est autorisée, il faudrait tout d'abord leur fournir le nombre complet, et plus tard on pourrait essayer à faire augmenter ce nombre, si vos sauvages se montrent disposés à y envoyer leurs enfants. Faites de votre mieux, cher Père, dans le sens indiqué dans cette lettre et espérons que le Bon Dieu bénira vos efforts.

Bonne et sainte année, et croyez moi bien,

Votre tout dévoué en N.S.&.M.I.

H. Grandin

O.M.I.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

October 13th 17

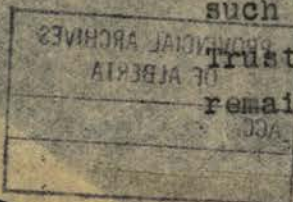
D. Scott, Deputy Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

Allow me to call your attention to my answer to the letter written to Bishop Pascal, by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, about Father Watelle principal of the St. Henry boarding School of Delmas. I cannot believe that the Department will persevere in the line of conduct indicated by the letter of the Honorable Dr. Roche. If we had to change the principal of our schools on the recommendation of dirty politicians, we would never be able to do anything with those schools. There are many defeated candidates in every election, and if these were allowed to take revenge for their defeat on missionaries who may have displeased them in any way, I would have to make changes every time we had an election. As I see it, this would be the best way to kill our schools, and that is exactly what is wanted by the party or parties making accusations against Father Watelle.

Moreover there is in that case a question of justice which cannot be ignored. The full grant has been earned by the staff of the school, and this full grant must be paid, or else the Department keeps money which does not belong to them. I would hate indeed to make trouble and to start a fight with the Department, but, dear Sir you understand as well as I do, that I cannot allow one of our schools to be robbed of its due, without taking the means to have such a wrong redressed.

Trusting your love of justice, I will wait for your answer, and I remain,
Yours respectfully



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

November 10th. 17

The General Superintendent of
Indian Affairs

Sir,

On the 8th. of October last, I answered some accusations brought against one of my missionaries, by your predecessor in the office of Superintendent general of Indian Affairs. The letter containing the accusations had been sent to His Lordship Bishop Pascal of Prince Albert, who forwarded it to me as I am the superior of the accused, Father Wateile, principal of the St. Henry's Indian boarding School Belmas, Sask. There is not the least foundation for the accusations made against Father Wateile, and even if he had been imprudent (what I absolutely deny) his imprudence would not justify the Department in its action, by which the staff of the school is unjustly deprived of the grant earned by its members. The amount due to this school by the Dept must be to-day, near, if not over \$ 3000, and if such a sum is not, may be, of much importance to you, you may easily understand that an Indian school cannot bear such a deprivation of its revenue, without suffering and making others suffer. Once more I appeal to your sense of justice and I ask you, Sir, to put an end to this persecution against a school which has been doing good work among the Indians of the surrounding reserves. I may add that if the whole story of this business was made known to the public, it would give a very strong and sharp weapon against the present administration. I do not wish to fight the Indian Dept. but I frankly profess my firm intention not to allow us to be bullied by unscrupulous politicians. The Hon. Dr. Roche has been made a tool of by those politicians, and I hope and trust that you will not become a party to the injustice and robbery contemplated by them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your obedient servant



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71220

November 10th. 17

D. Scott Deputy superintendent general
of Indian Affairs.

Dear Sir,

My letter to the superintendent general has not been answered and no grant has been paid to the St. Henry's school. Inclosed you will find a copy of a letter written to the new superintendent. You will understand that we cannot stand much longer such unjust treatment from the Department. This business must be settled at once, and settled justly. If it is necessary that I should go to Ottawa to obtain justice, I will go and at the earliest opportunity but I hope that you may, dear Sir, obtain the cessation of this outrageous treatment. If Father Watelle had acted as his enemies say he did, I would be the first to remove him, because I do not want any of our fathers to mix in politics, but I cannot yield to the pressure brought against him by the party who boasted that he would ruin the school and break the priest in charge of it. If you believe, dear Sir, that it would be better that I should go to Ottawa at once, will you kindly wire me, and I would start at once because I want to see the end of this trouble, and as I said before I would not like to start a fight with the Dept. but at the same time I cannot accept the precedent involved in this removal of a principal on the false accusation of a disappointed politician. If by the 20th of this month I have no answer from you or the general superintendent, I will understand that you refuse to give us justice, and then I will know what to do.

Yours respectfully

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ATKINSON
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My dear Mr. Garrison, I have just received your letter of the 14th inst. and am glad to hear that you are still so full of energy and enthusiasm for the cause of the oppressed. I am sure that your efforts will be successful, and that the day will come when all men will be free. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

1945

11-10-1944

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC 71320

November 23d. 17

D.C. Scott Deputy Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your telegram of yesterday, received half an hour, after I had sent you mine asking for information. I am very glad indeed, to see this matter settled in the only just way possible. I may when I have an opportunity tell you the details of this business, and then you will understand better why I could not consent to the removal of Father Watelle as principal of St. Henry's school and you will be in a better position to discount all reports against our missionaries employed in Indian schools.

Yours respectfully



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 716200

December 6th.

18

The Deputy Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

Allow me to draw your attention to a letter written by Mr. Agent Rowland, of Battleford, Sask. to Rev. A. Watelle of the St. Henry Boarding School, Delmas. In this letter, Mr. Rowland says that on the advice of the Department, he cannot sanction the admission of some children of the Red Pheasant Reserve to the Delmas boarding school. The reason given by the Depart. is that said children can easily attend a day school on the Reserve. There is a principle involved in that decision of the Dept. that I cannot accept. The children proposed for admission to the Delmas boarding school are Catholics, and as such they have a right to be admitted into a Catholic school. I cannot admit that the Dept. will try to force our children to frequent a Protestant school, contrary to the letter and spirit of the Indian Act. It may be that the education of these children will cost more in the boarding school than if they were to remain on the Reserve, but this has nothing to do with the question. Catholic children have a right to Catholic schools, and this right must be maintained. This year the influenza has made orphans amongst the Red Pheasant Indians, and the only place where these children can be cared for and educated, is the St. Henry boarding school, at least for all of them who are Catholics. I cannot believe that the Dept. will try to prevent these children, from the Catholic school, in order to favor a Protestant day school. I hope, dear Sir, that you will acknowledge the justice of my claim.

1925

and see that the rights of our catholic Indian children
are saveguarded.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

The letter to which I refer, is dated April 29th 1918. No 408



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

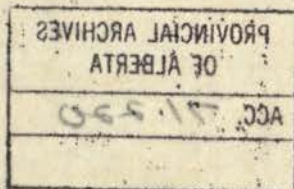
Edmonton, le 5 Septembre 1919

Mon cher Père Lacombe,

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre, et je veux y répondre immédiatement. Je crois qu'il y en effet sur vos réserves un grand nombre d'enfants qui pourraient et devraient être à l'école, mais nous ne sommes pas libres de prendre ceux que nous savons être admissibles. Cette année, j'ai demandé au Département des sauvages d'augmenter le nombre des admissions à l'école de Delmas, et on m'a répondu que c'était impossible parce que le local disponible pour les enfants sauvages était absolument plein. Pour être autorisé à en recevoir un plus grand nombre, il faudrait donc une nouvelle bâtisse, ou que celle qui est destinée aux pensionnaires blancs fut mise au service des enfants sauvages. La bonne volonté des sœurs n'est pas douteuse, mais sont-elles prêtes à bâtir de nouveau, ou à renoncer à leur pensionnat pour les blancs, pensionnat qui est bien important lui aussi, car ces enfants blancs ont bien besoin d'une institution comme celle tenue par les sœurs à Delmas. Je vais en écrire au P. Watelle et on verra ce qu'il sera possible de faire. Je n'ai point intention de vous changer, cher Père, mais comme je vous l'ai déjà écrit, je vous prie de ne point écrire au Dépt. indien d'autre lettre dans le genre de celle que vous m'avez montrée. Vous rendez nos rapports avec les officiers du Dépt. plus difficiles, vous les montez contre nous, et vous n'arriverez point de cette manière à obtenir ce qui vous semble juste et dû à vos sauvages. Voilà bien des années que je traite avec ces messieurs, et je n'ai jamais usé d'un langage blessant et insultant, et pourtant je suis toujours arrivé à obtenir ce que je croyais juste et raisonnable. Donc, cher Père, tenez vous en garde contre vous même et si vous avez des réclamations à présenter, faites les passer par l'entremise du P. Watelle, ou si la chose est très importante servez vous de moi. De cette manière nous éviterons les froissements inutiles et ferons certainement plus de bien.

Au revoir, cher Père, bon succès et croyez moi,

votre bien dévoué en X. S. & M. I.



Private and
Confidential.



Ottawa, Ontario, September 24, 1917.

My dear Bishop Pascal,-

I have had so many protests regarding the conduct of Principal Watelle, of the St. Henry's Boarding School, and strong representations have been made that the Department should not pay over the per capita grant while Father Watelle is in charge of the School, that I write you to suggest if you do not think it in the interests of harmony that Father Watelle should ~~not~~ be replaced by some other Principal. Apparently his work during the elections at that point has been of a nature to antagonize and earn the criticism of a good many of the local people in that district, and probably if you acted upon the above suggestion it would restore harmony. Kindly let me hear from you on the subject, and oblige,

Yours faithfully,

Bishop Albert Pascal, O.M.I.,
Prince Albert,
Saskatchewan.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

PRIVATE

October 8th.

17

The Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Sir,

His Lordship Bishop Pascal has forwarded to me the letter you wrote him on September 24th, about Father Watelle, principal of the Indian School of Delmas. As I am the superior of Father Watelle, his Lordship thought that it was my business to attend to this matter. In fact I had written a few weeks before to the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs about this same school, and I was expecting some communication from the Indian Department, when your letter was forwarded to me. Allow me, Sir, to express frankly and sincerely my surprise at the contents of your letter to Bishop Pascal. The staff of the St. Henry School have done their full duty by the children entrusted to their care. The Department have no word of blame or of reproach for the work done by the principal or teachers. They have fulfilled their part of the contract entered into by the Department and the mission, and yet the Department refuse to do their share by paying the grant agreed on by both parties, for work done. Even if the principal was guilty of the conduct imputed to him, the Department could not without injustice, withhold the salary of the teachers, and the payment of expenses incurred for the feeding and clothing of the Indian children, and without any proofs, on the word of politicians, you, as head of the Indian Department, assume the responsibility of refusing to pay the grant due the St. Henry School for the last six months, depriving thereby the teachers of their salaries and the traders of the payment due them for the supplies bought for the maintenance of the Indian children. For the last 30 years, I have had to deal with the Indian Department, as principal of Indian schools, or as superintendent of our Indian missions in Alberta and part of Saskatchewan, and I have never seen or heard of anything of the kind. I have fought one your predecessors in the office of superintendent

of Indian Affairs, and I must render it is justice to the Honorable Frank Oliver, that although he knew from his men and from me, that I had had done my best to defeat him in one of his elections, he had the manliness to acknowledge my right to differ from him, and he never showed that he had the least wish to make my schools suffer for my conduct.

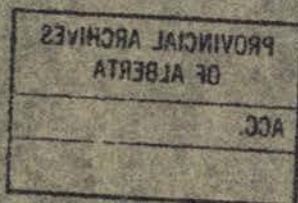
As regards the accusations made against Father Watelle, I am afraid, Sir, that your good faith has been imposed upon, and that you have given credence to tales concocted by a sorry lot of politicians. As a rule we do not meddle with politics, and it is only when the platform of a party or of a candidate makes it an obligation for us to speak, that we say what in conscience we are bound to say. Let the party or candidate respect our rights, and none of us will take part in any election but if a party or candidate publishes that one of their aims is the destruction of our schools, our duty is clear and we cannot run away from it. This was the case in the last election in Saskatchewan, and to this platform, must be attributed the crushing defeat of the conservative party in the province. As to the facts in the present case, Father Watelle has not taken any part in any campaign for or against any party. Once in a meeting of his parishioners about church matters, in answer to a question put to him by one of the members, he said that in view of the programs of the 2 parties, he thought that our schools had a better chance with the liberal party, but he did not even urge his people to vote for the liberal candidate, leaving them absolutely free to vote as they liked. To say that Father Watelle's conduct has destroyed the harmony in the district, is an absolute untruth, but it would be true to say that, if to satisfy the rancor and malice of a very few men whom I shall not name or qualify otherwise, I were to remove him from his school, the indeed there would be anger and disunion, and the end you have in view would be farther removed than ever before.

I hope, Sir, that this true explanation will prove satisfactory to you and that you will give orders that the grant too long due the St. Henry's school be paid at once, and that you will not insist on the removal of the principal of said school. I have greatly at heart to keep friendly relations with the Department, but I cannot sacrifice one of my men to the antipathy of defeated politicians who are trying to make you the instrument of their ill-will and disappointment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your obedient servant,



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 74.220



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
OTTAWA

May 15th, 1919.

Rev. and dear Sir -

It is my unpleasant duty to again bring to your attention interference on the part of Rev. Father Lacombe with our administration of Indian Affairs in the Battleford Agency.

As you will recollect the church authorities found it necessary some time ago to remove Father Lacombe from his charge on account of inter-meddling in secular matters and he was re-instated in his mission only upon condition that he would not interfere in any way with the work of the Department.

I do not think it necessary to go into detail, but would say that these complaints come to me from different authentic sources. I feel that the only remedy is to ask you to remove Father Lacombe from the Indian Mission work, and I shall be pleased to receive your assurance that this will be done at an early date.

Yours very truly,

Deputy Superintendent General.

Rev. A. Watelle,
Principal,
Thunderchild's Boarding School,
Delmas, Sask.

May 1st, 1919.

Rev. and Dear Sir -

It is my unpleasant duty to advise you of the
discontinuation of the part of Rev. Father Patterson
with our administration of Indian Affairs in the Northwest
Agency.

As you will be advised the church authorities
found it necessary some time ago to remove Father Patterson
from the charge of the mission inasmuch as he was
not a resident of the mission only upon
condition that he would not interfere in any way with the
work of the mission.

I do not think it necessary to go into details
but would say that these complaints come to me from different
sources. I feel that the only remedy is to
remove Father Patterson from the Indian Affairs work.
I am sure that you will understand the necessity of this.

Very truly,
Yours,
J. A. McCall.

Very truly,
Yours,
J. A. McCall.

Very truly,
Yours,
J. A. McCall.

Respectfully,
J. A. McCall.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 7/1220

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No. 427055-5

ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER.

PLEASE WRITE ON ONLY ONE SUBJECT
IN EACH LETTER.

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA.



Ottawa, February 27, 1919.

Reverend Sir,-

Complaint has been made regarding the interference by the Rev. Fr. Lacombe as to matters affecting the Indians of the Red Pheasant reserve. Recently he requested the Agent to send a doctor to the reserve as he was badly needed. At considerable expense a doctor was sent by the Agent and he reported that there was nothing serious, that the patients he had been asked to see were suffering from nothing more than an ordinary cold and that they did not require professional attendance.

I may say that the Agent is not expected to accede to the requests of calls for a doctor except when they come through the proper channels, that is, through the instructor or matron.

Under the circumstances I am to request that you will be good enough to warn the reverend gentleman not to interfere with matters outside of his clerical duties, and if he continues to do so the Department will be compelled to ask for his removal from the reserve.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. M. Lacombe".

Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

Rev. A. Wattelle,
St. Henry's Boarding School,
Delmas, Sask.

Ottawa, February 27, 1919.

Reverend Sir,

Complaint has been made regarding the interference by the Rev. Mr. Macdonald as to matters affecting the Indians of the Red River reserve. Recently he requested the Agent to send a doctor to the reserve as he was badly needed. At consider-

able expense a doctor was sent by the Agent and he reported that there was nothing serious, that the patients he had been asked to see were suffering from nothing more than an ordinary cold and that they did not require professional attendance.

I may say that the Agent is not expected to accede to the requests of individuals for a doctor except when they come through the proper channels, that is, through the Inspector or Station.

Under the circumstances I am to request that you will be good enough to warn the reverend gentleman not to interfere with matters outside of his clerical duties, and if he continues to do so the Department will be compelled to ask for his removal from the reserve.

Your obedient servant,

Asst. Deputy and Secretary.

Rev. A. Wattelle,
St. Henry's Boarding School,
Belmont, Sask.

Red-Pheasant Reserve,
Battleford Agency,
Battleford, Sask. January 30th. 1919

The Deputy,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

The undersigned ~~Indians~~ Indians of the Red-Pheasant Reserve beg to draw your attention on the way their affairs have been administered during the year 1918, by their local Agent and Farmer Instructor.

In the spring 1918, Mr. Graham, Indian Commissioner of Regina, issued very strict orders to the effect that each of us, men of this Reserve, should break ten acres of land, to help in producing food for our armies fighting in Europe and shedding their blood for the cause of justice and liberty. Though half of us had nothing to work with, we combined our efforts, we helped each other and managed to perform the work required of us. The few who did not do it, were in the impossibility of doing it. -- During that period of hard labor, our Instructor, Mr. Pink, would have starved us to death, had it not been for the energetic intervention of the Catholic Missionary. Under the pretext of keeping us at work, he refused us permits to go out once on a while and sell pickets or fire-wood in order to bring back home some food for our families. This venerable looking old gentleman is forgetting that he owes it to us, if he is living in a nice home, is paid a fat enough salary for the work he is doing. Had he got any sense of gratitude, he would treat us differently. But we suppose charitably that, having perhaps some German blood in him, he also has it for his motto the hellish German: "Right is right."

Another very scandalous management of ours, we want to bring to your knowledge, --

Owing to the great scarcity of hay in the Southern parts of our Western Provinces, we were coaxed and urged to cut all the available on our Reserve. So we did cut more hay than we ever did before, and would have cut ~~it~~ twice as much, had we been treated honestly by our Agent. The Agent had set a price on our hay, Five dollars being the maximum price we were allowed to take for one ton at the stack. In virtue of what authority, by what right did the Agent do this? The ex-Kaiser of Germany knows perhaps. We were offered as much as eight dollars and more at the stack, but could not get permit to sell. We could have got as much as \$15.00 a ton delivered at the nearest Station. But no!! The question was for us: either give up your hay for Five dollars or keep it and starve! Always hoping to get a more honest deal from our Agent we kept our hay, and still have it on hand, and we might find no more market for it. Our financial situation is very bad, we can not any more credit at the local stores, and we are going to face starvation.

It is said all around the district that some Indian Department employees have been drawing a fat ~~savvy~~ commission from that hay deal, that has been pushed through, on the Sweet-Grass and Poundmaker Reserves. We do not want ourselves to give any opinion in the matter, but this looks awfully suspicious.

Why was a price set on our hay, when the white settlers in our neighbourhood had all the chances and the privileges of speculating and making money with their hay? Are we not poor enough, without being ill used and abused and persecuted by the very ones whose first duty is to protect us and to help us out of our misery? Are we going to be forced to believe that in this our very own country, the prevailing rule is the German: "Might is Right!"

We are the wards of the Government, but not the slaves and the play-things of the low, conscienceless, and heartless politicians. It is time, and more than time, to remind the Indian Agents and all the Indian Department Employees, that they are paid fat salaries to manage our affairs honestly, and that it is their duty to protect us and to defend us against unjust speculation; that it is their duty to look after our interests first, before seeking their own or their friends' interests to our own detriment.

It could be proved easily enough that the Indians of this our Red-Pheasant Reserve, the Indians of the Mesquite, Sweet-Grass and Poundmaker Reserves have been robbed of the sum of about \$25000.00, because they were not let free to sell their hay where and when they wanted to do it.

And how many white people were given liberty to cut hay on our Reserves, without having been asked our consent. Where have the proceeds of this hay gone? Have they gone in the pockets of our Agent or of our Instructor? We have the right to know where we are at, to know how our properties are managed.

During the break of the Spanish Influenza, in November last, we lost eighteen of our people, and though the Agent was aware of the ravages made by this sickness among us, he never sent a doctor, nor even medicines to relieve the situation, only after all was about over. We are supposed to have a Field-Matron, paid by the Department to look after the sick of the Reserve, and also to look after the sanitary conditions of the Reserve. What is the use of such Field-Matrons if they are afraid to go around the sick Indians?...

What is the use of a Doctor for the Indians, when we can not get him only when it suits the fancy of the Instructor of the Reserve to ask for him, and when it suits the caprice of the Agent to send him? ... How many in our Reserve here, and in other Reserves of this Agency have died through the neglect of the Indian Department employees! !....

Why is it that in this Agency the sick, the helpless, the old destitute are not looked after and provided for by the Department, as it is done in other Agencies?...

We often have the good fortune of visiting other Reserves outside of this Agency and it is gratifying to see how the Indians there are going ahead. Our Agency seems to be the poorest of all we have seen. There must be some reason for it. We are not inferior to our brothers of other Reserves, we are as much anxious to progress as they are. We only want to be given a chance, to be given fair deal.

To conclude: a) Our last spring breaking and ploughing will be of no use for this spring, because being urged on to cut hay all Fall, we did not disk it or harrow it.

b) Our hay is practically lost, and will have to be surrendered for any price offered by speculators.

c) Our last summer crop is not threshed yet, and our Agent never seems to suspect that we have some grain to thresh. The grain is thus fed in sheaves, when some of it could have been used for seed.

d) We are facing starvation, being unable to get credit from the stores.

Now, Dear Sir, the object of this letter is to impress upon you the urgent necessity of a change in the administration of our Battleford Agency. We do not want to have anything

more to do with our actual Agent, because after eight years of very bitter experiences under his maladministration, we are fully convinced that the man, whatever might be his other personal qualities, is not in the least fit to fill his place.

Of course you will our request, unless you have more regard for the welfare of one man, than for the welfare of the population of the ~~saxx~~ eight Reserves of the Battleford Agency.

And if you are in the least anxious to remedy to our many and very old grievances and to restore among us the mutual confidence that should always exist between superior and inferior you will, for once, give us a decisive voice in the choice of our new Agent. We should like to have for Agent, Mr. of Battleford. He is an old friend of us Indians, he is an experienced and successful farmer and rancher, he knows the work that should be done on the Reserves, and he will always try to promote our interests first. At any rate, we are sure to be treated by him like human beings. With Mr. as Agent, we will have the certitude that no more fanciful reports will be sent to Ottawa on the situation of our affairs.

We trust that you will give this letter your most serious consideration, and that you will put an end to our sufferings.

Your very respectful.....

*ici ton le remue
out signe*

James A. Macdonald
1870-1871

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

École de
Delmas
L. J. C.
m - 7.

Prince-Albert le 31 janvier 1918 -

Ch. R. P. Ernest Lacombe curé.

Delmas.

Mon cher Père.

J'ai lu votre lettre du 16 janvier & je ne puis qu'applaudir
& encourager votre entreprise. Je ne parle pas du patronage
de votre Église de Moosomin. Non James d'Arc est déjà
le patronage de la paroisse de Donnelly dans le diocèse,
il ne faut pas multiplier les mêmes vicables; d'ailleurs elle
n'est pas encore admise dans le calendrier. Il faut, je crois
une permission de Rome pour dire la Messe au son nom.
Mais dites-moi; qu'elle bonne idée, si vous trouvez
le moyen, sans primer l'école indienne de Delmas,
la transporter seulement à Moosomin ou à Sours;
ce serait parfait. Elles n'auraient alors que les enfants
des Indiens à Delmas. Il ne s'agit donc pas de permutation
d'école, mais de changement de site, comme on fait
les lauges eux-mêmes. J'approuve pleinement la
chose comme évêque; reste maintenant à obtenir
l'autorisation du R. P. Vicaire général supérieur & puis
celle du Sup. Indien d'Ottawa & enfin à trouver les
ressources nécessaires pour y arriver. L'idée est bonne.
Si vous réussissez, je dirai que vous êtes éloquent.

Au revoir mon cher Père; j'embrasse Louis & Albert curé.
Mes saluts aux R. P. Watke & aux bonnes sœurs. C. D. D. Alb.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

L. J. P. et M. L.

Copie de la lettre de

R. P. Grandin

Edmonton le 21 Avril 1913

Révérende Soeur H. Stanislas
Belmas.

Révérende et chère Soeur.

Je ne crois pas en il y ait lieu au plus petit
doute sur la propriété de votre école sauvage
de Belmas. Le Gouvernement vous a donné
un bon titre comme à toutes les écoles sauvages du
pays, mais cela laisse le titre de propriété
entièrement en votre possession, comme dans nos
autres missions. Vous êtes bâties sur un terrain
appartenant aux Ojibés, et je crois pouvoir
vous assurer que ce n'est point de votre côté
que vous trouverez de difficulté. Donc vous
pouvez aller de l'avant avec les
améliorations que le Gouvernement Indien
demande, et ces améliorations vous coûteront
et ce sera, à mon jugement de l'argent
fort bien placé, car si vous arrivez à obtenir
le grant complet, vous pourrez facilement
et promptement rembourser ce que vous
aurez dépensé.

Votre bien dévoué M. L. et M. L.

Signé H. Grandin curé

sur copie certifiée

J. B.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No. 137,442-1.

ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER.

PLEASE WRITE ON ONLY ONE SUBJECT
IN EACH LETTER.

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
SECRETARY DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA.



Ottawa, August 1st, 1913.

Rev. Sir:-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, in reference to the improvements at the Thunder-child's Boarding School.

In reply I beg to say that the Department is pleased to know that this work is under way and that it is the intention to complete it so that the school will be entitled to rank in Grade A, under the agreement.

The Department will allow the grant at the maximum rate at \$125.00 from the 1st of April, last. A Supplementary Cheque for the additional earnings of the June quarter will be sent you in a few days.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tom Leman".

Assistant Deputy and Secretary.

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

Edmonton, Alta.

Ottawa, August 1st, 1913.

Rev. Sir:-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., in reference to the improvements at the Thunder-
bolt's Boarding School.
In reply I beg to say that the Department is pleased to know that this work is under way and that it is the intention to complete it so that the school will be entitled to rank in Grade A, under the agreement.
The Department will allow the grant at the maximum rate of \$125.00 from the 1st of April, last. A supplementary cheque for the additional earnings of the same quarter will be sent you in a few days.

Yours obedient servant,

Assistant Deputy and Secretary.

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

Edmonton, Alta.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No. _____

117555-10

ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER.

PLEASE WRITE ON ONLY ONE SUBJECT
IN EACH LETTER

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA.



Ottawa, March 18, 1918.

Reverend Sir,-

The Department has been informed that you have recently taken into the Thunderchilds Boarding School a pupil of the Onion Lake Church of England Boarding School, named Ida Bugler, No. 301 of the Red Pheasant Band.

This girl was allowed leave of absence from the Onion Lake School on account of having sore eyes and when arrangements had been made for her return to the Onion Lake School the Department is informed that she was taken and placed in the Thunderchilds Boarding School.

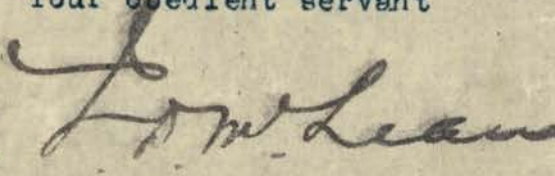
If the facts are as stated and this girl is in your school, you will, at once, have her returned to her home on the reserve.

This girl has been in the Onion Lake Church of England school for over three years, having been transferred to that school from the Battleford Industrial School at the time that institution was closed. The application for the admission of Ida Bugler to both the Onion Lake and Battleford schools, which is signed by the father, Joseph Bugler, states that she is a protestant.

You will be good enough to inform the Department why this girl, who is a pupil of another school, was placed in your school and also the date on which you comply with the above instructions to have her returned to her home.

Your obedient servant

Rev. A. Watelle,
Principal,
Thunderchilds Boarding School,
Delmas, Sask.


Assistant Deputy and Secretary

Ottawa, March 18, 1918.

Reverend Sir,-

The Department has been informed that

you have recently taken into the Thunderbolt Boarding School a pupil of the Union Lake Church of England Boarding School, named Ida Bugler, No. 301 of the Red Phasant Band.

This girl was allowed leave of absence

from the Union Lake School on account of having sore eyes and when arrangements had been made for her return to the Union Lake School the Department is informed that she was taken and placed in the Thunderbolt Boarding School.

If the facts are as stated and this girl is

in your school, you will, at once, have her returned to her home on the reserve.

This girl has been in the Union Lake

Church of England school for over three years, having been transferred to that school from the Balford Industrial School at the time that institution was closed. The application for the admission of Ida Bugler to both the Union Lake and Balford schools, which is signed by the father, Joseph Bugler, states that she is a protestant.

You will be good enough to inform the Department why this girl, who is a pupil of another school, was placed in your school and also the date on which you comply with the above instructions to have her returned to her home.

Your obedient servant

Assistant Deputy and Secretary

Thunderbolt Boarding School,

Beak.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
71.220
ACC. 71.220

INDIAN AGENT'S OFFICE

Battleford, Sask.,

April 29th 1918

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No. 308

ALSO

TO DATE OF THIS LETTER

Sir,—

I beg to advise you that the Department have written me regarding the applications for the admission of four pupils from Red Pheasant to the Thunderchild Boarding School, and have stated that they cannot sanction their admission. Their reason for this action is that "these children have been attending the Red Pheasant Day School, an improved day school, where they have been receiving a good education. Their parents reside within easy access of the day school and are well able to look after their children. The removal of these children to the Thunderchild Boarding School would considerably reduce the attendance at the improved day school and the cost of their education in the boarding school would be considerably greater than the cost of their education in the improved day school."

They have also stated that if these children are at present in the Thunderchild Boarding School they should be returned to their homes, and they have asked me to advise you accordingly.

Yours truly,

J. A. Howland
Indian Agent

Rev. A. Watelle,

St. Henry Boarding School,

Delmas, Sask.

Edmonton, Alberta,

April 23rd 1926

I have written and received the application for the
admission of four pupils from Red River to the
Inmanville Boarding School, and have stated that
they cannot attend their school. Their reason
for this action is that these children have been
attending the Red River School, an improved
day school, where they have been receiving a good
education. Their parents desire with every access of
the day school and will like to look after their
children. The removal of these children to the Inmanville
Boarding School would result in the loss of the
entrance to the day school and the cost of
their education in the boarding school would be
considerably greater than the cost of their education
in the approved day school.
They have also stated that if these
children are returned to the Inmanville Boarding
School they should be returned to their homes, and
they have asked me to return to the day school.

Yours truly,

W. A. Inman,
Acting Superintendent,
Inmanville Boarding School.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

December 20th.

18

Secretary Dept. of Indian Affairs
Ottawa

Sir,

In reply to your letter no. II6859/I Nov. 19th. I beg to say that work on the basement of the Blue Quill's School was delayed because the workmen could not get the cement from Vegreville, this town having been quarantined. Now that the ban is removed the work will be completed in 9 or 10 days.

The hospital accommodation will be ample as the present laundry shall be, or rather is refitted for that purpose. There will be one large room for the boys, and one for the girls. The building is 40 by 30.

Could not the Dept. purchase for this school a stronger engine than the one in use at present? If no formal promise to that effect has been made, I believe that the school management have been placed under the impression that on the completion of the work, such a purchase might be done by the Dept.

Hoping that there will be no delay in the re-classification of the school, I remain,

Sir,

yours respectfully

RECEIVED DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OTTAWA
DEC 21 1918

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
OTTAWA

January 7, 1919.

Dear Father Grandin,-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6th ultimo. With reference to the admission of certain children from the Red Pheasant reserve to the Thunderchild boarding school. I am making further inquiries into this matter, which has just been brought to my attention, and I shall be pleased to communicate with you again.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Duncan Campbell Scott".

Deputy Superintendent General.

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
Oblate Fathers,
Provincial House,
Edmonton, Alta.

1995. 5. 12. 1995

April 5th.

19

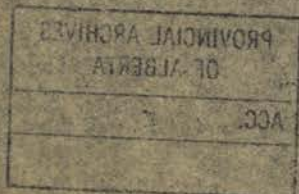
D. Scott Deputy Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

In the course of our conversation in your office, last month, I spoke to you about the catholic indian children of the Red Pheasant Reserve, and of the refusal of some official of your department, to allow these children to be admitted in the St. Henri's Indian boarding school. You told me at the time that it was your intention to close all the day schools, on so the objection raised by the Dept to the admission of the catholic children of the Red Pheasant reserve to the boarding school would disappear. At the same time, I pointed out to you the necessity of authorising the St. Henri School to admit from 10 to 20 more children. The time has come to take such an action, as the Indians are anxious to send their children to said school, as soon as possible. Will you kindly let me know if I can advise the Rev. Principal of the St. Henri's school that he may from May first, receive all the catholic children of the Red Pheasant or any other reserve in the Agency.

I have the honor to be, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220

ADDRESS REPLY TO THE
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
OTTAWA.



IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

No. 137443-10

ALSO TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER.

PLEASE WRITE ON ONLY ONE SUBJECT
IN EACH LETTER.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

CANADA Ottawa, April 30, 1919.

Reverend Sir,-

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, applying for an increase in the number of grant earning pupils to the Thunderchild Boarding School.

In reply I beg to say that this school has now all the pupils in residence for which it can provide accommodation under the Department's requirements as regards air space for each pupil and additional accommodation would have to be provided before any further increase could be granted in the number of pupils.

+ { With reference to the recruiting of Roman Catholic children of school age from the Red Pheasant Reserve, I beg to say that the Department has no desire to offer any objection to recruiting being done from that reserve to the Thunderchild school and regrets that an impression to the opposite effect was conveyed in the letter to the principal referred to by you.

Your obedient servant

Assistant Deputy and Secretary

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.
10188 - 107th Street,
Edmonton, Alta.



157-1-10

Ottawa, April 30, 1919.

Respected Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, applying for an increase in the number of grant bearing pupils to the Thunderchild Boarding School.

In reply I beg to say that this school has now all the pupils in residence for which it has provided accommodation under the Department's regulations as regards its space for each pupil and additional accommodation would have to be provided before any further increase could be granted in the number of pupils.

With reference to the recruiting of Roman Catholic children of school age from the Red Reserve, I beg to say that the Department has no desire to offer any objection to recruiting being done from that reserve to the Thunderchild school and regrets that an impression to the opposite effect was conveyed in the letter to the principal referred to by you.

Yours obedient servant

Assistant Deputy and Secretary

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
1018 - 107th Street,
Edmonton, Alta.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220

Edmonton, December 18th, 1919

D. Scott Deputy Superintendent General
of Indian Affairs

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly let me know if in the event of our building an addition to the St. Henri Boarding School in Delmas, the Department would authorise us to receive a greater number of indian children. I know that you ~~authorised~~ have lately granted an increase of pupils to this same school, but there are many more catholic children, who could be taken in, if the necessary accommodation was provided for them. Before undertaking any work, we must be sure that the Department will authorise the admission of more children, and we would like to know your intentions as soon as possible.

yours truly



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
OTTAWA

December 27th. 1919.

Dear Father Grandin,

I have your letter of the 18th. instant with reference to an addition to the Thunderchild Boarding school. This is a matter to which I wish to give careful and sympathetic consideration, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will let me know as soon as possible to what extent you would propose to enlarge the accommodation, so that I may know what financial obligation would be involved so far as the Department is concerned. You might also let me know how you propose to make the addition or enlargement. Later on I would like to see the plan.

Yours very truly,

Deputy Superintendent General.

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
Oblate Fathers,
Provincial House,
10188 - 107th. St.,
Edmonton, Alta.

PROV

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

ACC. 71.220



DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL
OTTAWA

November 15th, 1919.

Dear Father Grandin -

I have your letter of the 5th instant, regarding the Bugler children at present in the Onion Lake Church of England boarding school. The letter to which you refer was sent without my knowledge, but I have looked carefully into the matter and I am of the opinion that the action taken in that letter was consistent with the circumstances as known to the Department.

These children were placed voluntarily in the school by their parents - one of the girls so long ago as 1912 and the other three years ago - and it was only recently, after this long interval, that the request was made to have them transferred.

I can assure you that it is my wish to deal fairly with all concerned in matters of this kind, but we cannot adopt the view that every change of religion by the parents should create an obligation on the Department to transfer their children from one school to another.

I regret, therefore, that the request for this transfer cannot be complied with.

Yours very truly,

Deputy Superintendent General.

Rev. H. Grandin, O.M.I.,
Oblate Fathers,
Provincial House, 10188 - 107th Street,
Edmonton, Alta.

November 15th, 1911.

Dear Mr. [Name],

I have your letter of the 14th inst. regarding the [Name] and we are glad to hear that you are well. I am sure that you will find the [Name] very interesting and I hope you will be able to get some good results from your study of it.

I am sure that you will find the [Name] very interesting and I hope you will be able to get some good results from your study of it.

I am sure that you will find the [Name] very interesting and I hope you will be able to get some good results from your study of it.

I am sure that you will find the [Name] very interesting and I hope you will be able to get some good results from your study of it.

Yours very truly,

Dr. [Name]

101st Street, [Name], [Name]

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 71.220