

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYM.
Full-Rate Message	
Day Letter	DL
Night Message	NM
Night Letter	NL

C.N.T. 6295
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FORM 6124

ORIGINAL OF MESSAGE

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If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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THE SECRETARY

DEPT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS OTTAWA ONT

FOUR BOYS FROM LEJAC SCHOOL RAN AWAY AND WERE FROZEN TO DEATH ON
FRASER LAKE STOP INQUEST HELD YESTERDAY WHEN ACCIDENT VERDICT
BROUGHT IN BY JURY NO BLAME ATTACHED TO ANYONE STOP FULL REPORT
FOLLOWING

R H MOORE.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
FULL-RATE MESSAGE	
DAY LETTER	
NIGHT MESSAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	
PATRONS SHOULD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AN X OPPOSITE THE CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED: OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM	

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

D. E. GALLOWAY, Assistant Vice-President, Toronto, Ont.



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Cable Service
to all the World
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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

NIGHT LETTER.

Ottawa, January 5, 1937.

R. H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Ottawa newspaper reports four Indian
boys frozen to death near east end Fraser Lake last Saturday STOP
Stated to be pupils Lejac Residential School STOP Please for-
ward complete report at once.

T. R. L. MacInnes.

T. R. L. MacInnes
Chg. Dept. I.A.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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(C O P Y)

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

Office of
Indian Agent,

Vanderhoof, B.C.,
January 6th, 1937.

Sir:-

I sent you the following night lettergram on January 5th instant.

"Four boys from Lejac School ran away and got frozen to death on Fraser Lake. Stop. Inquest held yesterday when accidental verdict brought in by Jury, no blame attached to anyone. Stop. Full report following."

Which I now beg to confirm.

On Sunday last, January 3rd, at 12.30 P.M. the local Provincial Police called at my house to inform me that an inquest would be held the following day at Fort Fraser to enquire into the death of four boys from the Lejac Residential School who were found frozen to death on Fraser Lake the previous day. As that was the first that I had heard of the sad affair I asked for particulars, and the Constable told me all he knew about the finding of the bodies the night before, the rest would have to wait until the Inquest.

The following morning, January 4th, I left for Fort Fraser by auto in 10 degrees below zero with a blizzard blowing and attended the Inquest which commenced at 10 A.M. and did not conclude until 5 P.M. when the verdict given later in this report was brought in by the Jury. Owing to drifted roads I did not arrive home again that night until 10 o'clock, taking almost four hours to go twenty-six miles, consequently it was too late to wire the Department then as both Telegraph Offices close at 6 P.M. so that is why my wire did not leave until the 5th instant.

I am going to start at the beginning and try to trace the matter right through from the time the boys were last seen at the School on January 1st.

The names of the four boys are as follows:-

#339 - Allen Patrick, aged 9
#324 - Andrew H. Paul " 8
#326 - Justa Maurice " 8
#350 - John Michel Jack aged 7.

The parents of the two from Nautley I.R. #1 were at home and the parents of the boy from Francois Lake were visiting relatives on the Nautley Reserve, while the boy from Cheslatta was a relative of the boy from Francois Lake. The School that day was in charge of Bishop Coudert owing to the fact that the Acting Principal was holding services with the Indians at Stellako I.R. and did not get back to the School until 4.30 P.M. These four boys asked permission to visit their relatives that morning but were refused by the Bishop owing to the fact that they were too young to be allowed to leave the School alone. At 4 P.M. that day these boys were with the other children when they were all given their usual afternoon lunch, returning to the recreation hall afterwards. At 6 P.M. when the children went to supper they were missing and the Sister Superior reported so to the Bishop, (although the Acting Principal was then back at the School) who did not advise Father McGrath until that night at 9.15. As soon as the matter was reported to him he made enquiries as to their names and other particulars and hearing that they had asked for permission to go home earlier in the day, had been refused.

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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immediately assumed that they had gone away and expressed the opinion then that as it was so late and a holiday that he would not send for them that night but allow them to stay with their friends and he would get them next day. Owing to the train being late next morning it was not possible to send for the boys until between 12 and 1 o'clock noon. They were not with their friends and then a search party was organized and at 5 P.M. their bodies were found on the lake less than half a mile from shore and safety.

It appeared as if they took French leave immediately following the afternoon lunch and were not missed by the disciplinarian in charge until the children went for supper. They were lightly clad for indoor recreation and as it was about 20 degrees below zero that night, and the distance they had to walk eight miles across the lake with six inches of snow on the ice you can understand that they would probably be dead on the night of the 1st. between 10 P.M. and midnight.

The foregoing is as complete a story as I can give you from the evidence brought out at the Inquest, so far as the tragedy is concerned. However there are other points which were brought out and have to do with the disciplinarians which I did not know before. It seems that last September Bishop Buno took it upon himself to appoint two young priests from France, who had recently arrived in this country, as disciplinarians at the School, contrary I understand to the wishes of the Acting Principal. These young men, while charming fellows, could not speak a word of English and knew absolutely nothing about handling Indian children, the result being that we have had a lot of truancy during the past three months, and I personally on one or two occasions suggested to the Acting Principal that he get rid of these Priests and appoint some one who knew something about the job, otherwise truancy would go from bad to worse. I took it that Father McGrath agreed with me and the change would be made, but I did not know that he could not make the change himself until he was under oath as a witness at the Inquest. Consequently, I took immediate action and requested Father McGrath officially to change the disciplinarians immediately and reappoint one of those men who has been a disciplinarian at that School for the past 5 or 6 years. As soon as the roads are open for travel again in a few days I am going up to the School to see that the change has been made. If you will please refer to Mr. Phealan he will tell you that when he visited this Agency two years ago I expressed my views to him on the importance of disciplinarians, with which he fully agreed and even wrote to the Principal at that time making these same suggestions which the Principal agreed to and acted on.

In closing allow me to make the following recommendation. "The School Authorities to be instructed to appoint disciplinarians other than Priests, who understand and can speak the English language well, this to take effect right away."

"I would also recommend that the Church Authorities be given to understand that the Principal must be given full charge and not be interfered with by his superiors, insofar as the management of the School is concerned, otherwise inefficiency is the result."

I am attaching hereto a copy of the Official Coroner's Jury verdict, as well as a copy of a letter from Dr. Pitts, all of which I trust you will find self explanatory. I trust I have covered the whole matter sufficiently in detail in this report, although I could add that I am not satisfied that having Priests using the School as a Headquarters is good business, and I feel should be discouraged.

Your obedient servant,

(sgd) R. H. Moore,

Indian Agent.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Fraser Lake, B.C.

Jan. 6th. 1937.

R.H. Moore, Esq.,
Indian Agent,
Vanderhoof, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

As you may know, the results of the late inquest have got into the hands of the Canadian Press Bureau and there is some chance that they might make a little capital of the jury's recommendations which appear to reflect on the school.

I write you because I am in the uncomfortable position, as Coroner, of being the source of the information, and I don't want it to appear that I have gone out of my way to supply information.

Rimes called me up yesterday noon asking for information about the inquest. I gave him the names of the boys, and the account of their disappearance. When he asked for the verdict I considered it best to give it to him, since the inquest was open and he could always get an account of it from someone else possibly exaggerated or incorrect. Apparently he wired this information to the Canadian Press.

Last night I got a wire from the Canadian Press Bureau asking for information as to the testimony which lead to the jury making the recommendations that they did, also bearing on conditions at the School. After some thought, it seemed to me best to send a reply, to prevent, if possible, the papers from printing a manufactured story which might end with a Government investigation and what not.

I sent the following reply:-

At Nautley Inquest testimony showed boys did not run away from school because of ill treatment but to spend holidays with parents. Principal of school testified that this often occurred, that boys had access to proper clothing and had only seven miles to go home, therefore no search was made until next day. Said greater frequency of runaways lately due to fact chaperonal punishment discouraged by higher authorities. Indian witnesses maintained corporal punishment resulted in runaways, hence jury's recommendation re discipline. No evidence to show cruelty at school or negligence in this particular case.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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I showed this to Father McGrath and he was quite satisfied with it. I hope it may prevent any sensational headlining by the papers.

Yours,

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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(CORONER)

COPY.

The Government of
British Columbia.

INQUISITION.

}

An Inquisition indented taken at Fort Fraser
British Columbia, the 4th. day of January, in the first year of the
reign of our Sovereign Lord the King, before me, C.Pitts, M.D.,
gentleman, one of the Coroners for our Lord the King, for the
Province aforesaid, upon the view of the bodies of Allen Willie,
Johnny Michel, Maurice Justine, Andrew Paul, then and there and
within the jurisdiction of the said Coroner, lying dead, upon the
oaths of

Frederick Waite Makins

Herbert George Crowe

Wm. Lewis Taylor

Otto Elbil Vinnedge

Arthur Goodwin

Arthur Wesley Dobson

good and lawful men of Fort Fraser, B.C., aforesaid, in the said
Province of British Columbia, who being now sworn and charged to
inquire, on the part of our said Lord the King, when, where, how,
and after what manner, the said Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice
Justine and Andrew Paul came to his death, do say upon their oath,
that it is the opinion of this jury that the deaths of these four
boys, viz., Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justin & Andrew Paul
occurred on the east end of Fraser Lake on the night of Jan. 1st. 1937
and that death was due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

We, the jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable, in
view of the evidence in this case.

We feel however that more definite action by the school
authorities might or should have been taken the night upon which the
disappearance took place.

Further, it is our opinion that more cooperation between the
authorities and the parents of the children would in future help to
lessen the danger in the future of any repetition of such an incident.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Also, that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited and that better understanding would exist between pupils and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

IN WITNESS whereof, as well as the aforesaid Coroner as the jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their seals on the day and the year and at the place at first above mentioned.

Frederick Waite Makins

Arthur Goodwin

Arthur Wesley Dobson

Herbert George Crowe

Otto E. Vinnedge

William Lewis Taylor

Signed:- C. Pitts, M.D.,

Coroner.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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163-1-23

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CANADA

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AGENT

Vanderhoof, B.C., January 6th. 1937.

Sir:-

I sent you the following night lettergram on January 5th. instant.

"Four boys from Lejac School ran away and got frozen to death on Fraser Lake. Stop. Inquest held yesterday when accidental verdict brought in by jury, no blame attached to anyone. Stop. Full report following."

Which I now beg to confirm.

On Sunday last, January 3rd., at 12:30 P.M. the local provincial police called at my house to inform me that an inquest would be held the following day at Fort Fraser to enquire into the death of four boys from the Lejac Residential School who were found frozen to death on Fraser Lake the previous day. As that was the first that I had heard of the sad affair I asked for particulars, and the Constable told me all he knew about the finding of the bodies the night before, the rest would have to wait until the inquest.

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The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

enquiries as to their names and other particulars and hearing that they had asked for permission to go home earlier in the day, and been refused, immediately assumed that they had gone away and expressed the opinion then that as it was so late and a holiday that he would not send for them that night but allow them to stay with their friends and he would get them next day. Owing to the train being late next morning it was not possible to send for the boys until between 12 and 1 o'clock noon. They were not with their friends and then a search party was organised and at 5 P.M. their bodies were found on the lake less than half a mile from shore and safety.

It appeared as if they took French leave immediately following the afternoon lunch and were not missed by the disciplinarian in charge until the children went for supper. They were lightly clad for indoor recreation and as it was about 20 degrees below zero that night, and the distance they had to walk eight miles across the lake with six inches of snow on the ice you can understand that they would probably be dead on the night of the 1st. between 10 P.M. and midnight.

The foregoing is as complete a story as I can give you from the evidence brought out at the inquest, so far as the tragedy is concerned. However there are other points which were brought out and have to do with the disciplinarians which I did not know before. It seems that last September Bishop Munoz took it upon himself to appoint two young priests from France, who had recently arrived in this country, as disciplinarians at the School, contrary to the wishes of the Acting Principal. These young men, while charming fellows, could not speak a word of English and knew absolutely nothing about handling Indian children, the result being that we have had a lot of truancy during the past three months, and I personally on one or two occasions suggested to the Acting Principal that he get rid of these priests and appoint some one who knew something about the job, otherwise truancy would go from bad to worse. I took it that Father McGrath agreed with me and the change would be made, but I did not know that he could not make the change himself until he was under oath as a witness at the Inquest. Consequently, I took immediate action and requested Father McGrath officially to change the disciplinarians immediately and reappoint one of those men who has been a disciplinarian at that School for the past 5 or 6 years. As soon as the roads are open for travel again in a few days I am going up to the School to see that the change has been made. If you will please refer to Mr. McLean he will tell you that when he visited this Agency two years ago I expressed my views to him on the importance of disciplinarians, with which he fully agreed and even wrote to the Principal at that time making these same suggestions which the Principal agreed to and acted on.

In closing allow me to make the following recommendation. "The School Authorities to be instructed to appoint disciplinarians other than priests, who understand and can speak the English language well, this to take effect right away."

"I would also recommend that the Church Authorities be given to understand that the Principal must be given full charge and not be interfered with by his superiors, insofar as the management of the School is concerned, otherwise inefficiency is the result."

I am attaching hereto a copy of the Official Coroner's Jury verdict, as well as a copy of a letter from Dr. Pitts, all of which I trust you will find self explanatory. I trust I have covered the whole matter sufficiently in detail in this report, although I could add that I am not satisfied that having priests using the School as a Headquarters is good business, and I feel should be discouraged.

Your obedient servant,

R.H. Moore
R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

RHM/L.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Division "D"
District - Fort George
Detachment: Vanderhoof

Date 7/1/37

Unorganized territory.

R E P O R T

Re. WELLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
MICHEL, JOHNNY " Uncha Lake, B.C.
JUSTIN, MAURICE " Uncha Lake, B.C.
PAUL, ANDREW " Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF.

On January 2, 1937, I received a phone call at 8.05 p.m. from Father Patrick McGrath, Principal of the Indian Residential School, Lejac, B.C. to the effect that four Indian boys had been found dead on Fraser Lake near the Nautley Indian Reservation. I instructed Father McGrath to notify the Coroner Dr. W.C. Pitts at Fraser Lake, B.C.

I immediately proceeded to Nautley Reserve, where I was met by Coroner Pitts. We were guided on to the lake to where the bodies were lying.

The bodies were examined by the Coroner and myself, and it was found that they had died of freezing. There were no marks of violence found on any of the bodies. The bodies were then taken to the Nautley Reserve and kept there until Monday January 4, 1937.

Witnesses were warned to appear at the Gov't Office Fort Fraser on January 4, 1937, where an inquest was to be held.

On Monday, January the 4th, 1937, a jury was summoned. The Jury having been duly sworn proceeded to view the bodies.

Witnesses called:-

Jean Donze duly sworn stated: I am a Priest residing at the Residential School at Lejac, B.C. I am in charge of the Indian boys at the school in the afternoon one week and the mornings the next week. I was on duty January 1st, 1937, in the afternoon. It was at 4 pm on January 1st that I last saw the four boys alive. They were not dressed for going outside. They apparently left the school shortly after 4.30 p.m. for they have lunch at that time, they were not seen afterwards. They should have reported back to me. They left without permission. They were dressed just to be in the play hall, they could not have obtained any more of their clothes without me seeing them as they were in the play hall and I was there all the time. I have been in charge of the boys for about three months, and have not had any trouble with them. The boys were missed by Sister Superior of the dining room at 8 pm and I understand she reported to Bishop Coudert who was in charge during Father McGrath's absence. I was told that they were missing at 8.30 pm I did not do anything as I was not responsible. Nothing was done until the next morning. There were quite a lot of visitors on January 1st and it was thought that they had gone away with some of them. Father McGrath told Mr. Goreoren to go to Nautley Reserve to get the boys with the car next morning about 1 o'clock January 2, 1937. The boys could go to the barns, and around the grounds also to the visitors parlour without permission, so it is impossible for us to see them at all times.

Father Patrick McGrath, duly sworn stated: I am Acting Principal of the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. On January 1st, 1937, I was at Stellaquo Reserve and did not return to the school until 5 pm that evening, but it was not until 9.15 pm that I heard that the four boys were missing.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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Continued:- Page 2.

MR. WILLIE, Allen (Indian)	Hautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
MICHEL, Johnny "	Unche Lake, B.C.
JUSTIN, Maurice "	Unche Lake, B.C.
PAUL, Andrew "	Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

It was first reported to Bishop Confort. When I was told, I asked for the names of the four boys. I knew that the parents were at the Hautley Reserve and felt quite sure that they had reached the reserve, as there were quite a number of visitors from the reserve at the school that afternoon as I met several of them going home. I did not consider the possibility of the boys going by the lake, they generally use the Railway track or the road, when going home. I decided to send the car for them in the morning. Then the children when they ran away from the school, they are welcomed home by the parents, and if they go home the parents do not notify the school that they are home, and they will not send them back. In the morning January 2nd. our driver Mr. Corcoran who is the Postmaster was not free as the mail was late, did not leave until noon. He went to the Hautley Reservation and then returned and informed me that the boys had not arrived home. I became immediately alarmed. I went to Stellakoq Reservation and made enquiries, but the boys had not arrived there. I went to the Hautley Reserve and questioned one of the boys' parents closely, but could find no trace of them. A search party was organized about 4 P.M. January 2nd. At 7 P.M. I was notified by phone that the bodies of the four boys had been found. I phoned Constable Jennings, Vanderhoof, B.C. and Coroner Pitts. On arrival of the Coroner and Constable Jennings at Hautley Reserve a guide took them to the bodies. The bodies were then brought to the Hautley Reserve.

The appointment of the Priests, as supervisors of the boys are appointed by my superiors, not myself. I think that supervisors who speak good English, would be more effective in controlling the children. It is my opinion that the children are sufficiently clothed. I did not know the four boys were poorly clothed. They could have obtained more clothing from the play room, and might have taken clothes without being seen. I did not worry about the boys until next day. Leaving without permission has occurred before. There are seventy-one boys at the school. They are allowed considerable latitude to roam around about, within certain boundaries. Ninety per cent of the children at the school are there against their parents' wishes, and they are not disciplined by the parents, when they make up their minds to run away it is practically impossible to prevent them doing so.

Patrick Joseph Corcoran, Lejac, B.C - duly sworn:- Stated:- I am a chauffeur, I am employed at the Lejac Indian Residential School, Lejac, B.C. I first heard of the four boys missing from the school on January 2nd at 9 P.M. I was told by Bishop Confort. I went to Father McGrath, who instructed me to go to the Hautley Reserve with the car and fetch the boys back to the school. I left about one o'clock. I went to the Reserve and saw Chief Louis George, he had not seen the boys. I went to the home of one of the boys; Mrs. Sylvester Patrick, she told me they were not there but they might have gone to Stellakoq Reserve, I returned to the school and informed Father McGrath. Then with Father McGrath I went to Stellakoq Reserve. We returned to the school and I made a search around to see if I could track them. We then went to Hautley Reserve and a search party was sent out. Father McGrath was notified about 7 P.M. that the bodies had been found.

I was disciplinarian over the boys from 1951 to 1954 inclusive. I consider the children warmly clothed. I had to watch them closely to prevent them from discarding their clothing. I do not think the present disciplinarians have enough authority, and believe that English speaking disciplinarians would be better. Truance among the Indian children, seems to come in cycles particularly in the spring and fall. It is simply a desire for liberty, and not due to any grievance against the authorities. The four boys had asked permission to go home but they had been refused. It is the first time any of the children have gone by the lake when they have run away.

Charlie Charlie: - Indian, duly sworn stated:- I reside on the Hautley

Continued:- Page 3.

Re. WILLIE, Allen (Indian) Nautley Reserve, Fort Fraser, B.C.
 MICHEL, Johnny " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 JUSTIN, Maurice " Uncha Lake, B.C.
 PAUL, Andrew " Stony Creek Reserve, B.C.

Indian Reserve. I heard about the four boys missing on January 2nd 1937, about 4 PM. I was asked by Father McGrath to go out and search for them. Pierre William and Francois Joe went along the C.N.R. tracks, and Justin Maurice's boy and myself went on the North shore of Fraser Lake, then crossed the ice to the South shore. We found the tracks of the four boys, just East of the point at Encombe, and we followed them East and we found the boys, about 5-30 PM. Three of the boys were lying together, and one about seventy-five feet away. They were lying face downwards. The tracks were going straight, and did not waver around. They were going straight to the Nautley Village, until they came to the open water, at the Nautley River, then they turned South towards the South shore. The bodies were about seven miles from the school, half a mile from the Nautley Reserve and about a quarter of a mile from the South shore. I followed the tracks for about three miles before I found the bodies, the tracks showed they were pretty tired. After I found the bodies, I went to Nautley and Chief Maxine George phoned the police. It took me about three quarters of an hour to travel three miles.

Constable Jennings, duly sworn stated:- On Saturday, January 2nd, 1937, I received a phone call from the Indian Residential School at Lejac, B.C. at 8-05 PM to the effect that four bodies of the missing boys had been found. I proceeded to the scene with the Coroner. The bodies were out on the ice of Fraser Lake about three quarters of a mile from the Nautley Reserve. The bodies were those of four young boys about the age of eight years, three bodies were lying together. One on his back and one lying face down over his abdomen the other a few feet away face downwards in the snow. The fourth was about twenty-five yards from the three lying face downwards. They were dressed in underwear, blue overall pants and denim shirts, no hats, heavy woollen socks and low rubbers. One boy had lost one sock and rubber. Where the three bodies were lying the snow was packed for a radius of ten feet, the one that was a short distance away had packed the snow very little. The bodies were examined by the Coroner and myself, and they were then taken to Nautley Reserve. The distance they had travelled would take them at least six hours. They did not appear to have fallen into the water as the clothing was not frozen. It is my opinion that they died on January 1st, 1937.

VERDICT:- It is the opinion of this Jury, that the deaths of the four boys, Viz. Allen Willie, Johnny Michel, Maurice Justin and Andrew Paul, occurred on the East end of Fraser Lake on the night of January 1st., 1937, and that death was due to exhaustion and consequent freezing.

We, the Jury, feel that such circumstances was unavoidable in view of the evidence of this case. We, feel however, that more definite action by the school authorities might, or should have been taken the night upon which the disappearance took place. Further, it is our opinion, that more co-operation between the authorities, and the parents of the children, would in future help to lessen the danger of any repetition of such an incident. Also that excessive corporal discipline, if practiced, should be limited, and that better understanding would exist between the pupils, and disciplinarians if the latter were English speaking.

The Jury were the following:-

Foreman, - Frederick Waite Makins,

Hernert George Crow, William Lewis Taylor,

Otto Elbil Vinnedge, Arthur Goodwin, Arthur Wesley Dobson.

The N.C.O. i/c
 Fort George Dist., B.C.P.P.
 Prince George, B.C.

H.J.Jennings, Constable,
 i/c Vanderhoof Detachment.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 8th. 1937.

Sir:-

Please refer to Official Circular Letter dated April 17th. 1935 File No. C -1-1-23 regarding the completing of form No. 414 immediately following the death of a pupil of an Indian Residential School.

In this connection I beg to advise that since the death of the four boys who were found dead on Fraser Lake it has not been possible for me to hold this inquiry owing to the fact that some of my family had the measles and I did not consider it advisable to go to the School until all fear of carrying the disease there would be over. I will however give this matter my attention at the earliest possible date.

Yours obedient servant,

R.H. Moore,
Indian Agent.

R.H. Moore
R.H. Moore

The Secretary,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, Ont.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6446, file 881-23, part 1)

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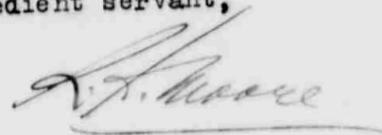
Vanderhoof, B.C., January 11th. 1937.

Sir:-

Further to my report of January the 6th. inst. regarding the four boys who were frozen to death on Fraser Lake after having taken French leave from the Lejac Indian Residential School.. I wish to advise that I have just been informed by the School authorities that the Mackinaw coats and other heavy outer garments were found on Fraser Lake a few days ago. It would appear now as if the boys were wearing their regular winter clothes, overcoats and caps when they ran away but found travelling over the ice rather warm work with their coats on and took them off and threw them on the ice, continuing without them.

I deem it advisable to send this information now as some of the stories in the press were rather exaggerated and seem to emphasise the fact that the boys were inadequately clad.

Your obedient servant,



R.H. Moore
Indian Agent.

This letter is in reply to a letter from the Secretary, Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, Ont.
RHM/D
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RHM/D
PP

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