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dr. *dr. file*  
montreal Gazette

6-1-37.

Y 6, 1937.

## INDIAN BOYS' DEATH SUBJECT OF INQUIRY

### Victoria Authorities Ask Full Report—Inquest Verdict Raps School

Victoria, B.C. January 5.—<sup>(2)</sup> The Indian Office here today wired the authorities at Vanderhoof, in the central interior of British Columbia, for full particulars concerning the deaths of four Indian boys whose bodies were found frozen to the ice of Fraser Lake Saturday night.

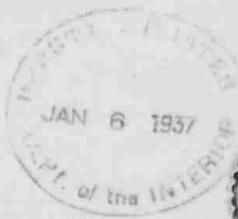
The order was sent following reports from Vanderhoof, approximately 30 miles from Prince George, B.C., that a coroner's jury had returned a verdict recommending that "excessive corporal discipline," of practised, be curtailed at the Lejac Indian School, from which the boys ran away on New Year's Day.

The four boys, all under 10 years old, left the school and started out for the Nautley Indian Reservation, reaching within a mile of the Reserve before dropping from cold and exhaustion.

The coroner's jury found that death was "unavoidable" in view of the intense cold and the light clothes the boys were wearing when they left the school. The jury also found that school authorities should have taken more definite action the night the boys left the school on their fatal trek.

### Report Ordered by Ottawa

Ottawa, January 5.—<sup>(2)</sup> Officials of the Indian Affairs Branch are awaiting a report on the death of four Indian boys from the Indian school at Lejac, B.C. As yet the officials have no information on the matter, but a full report has been ordered from the local authorities.



Ottawa Journal.

5-1-37.

### Find Four Bodies Small Indian Boys

VANDERHOOF, B.C., Jan. 4.— Bodies of four small Indian boys, apparently frozen to death, were found half-buried in snow near the east end of Fraser Lake Saturday night. Word of the tragedy reached here today.

Details were not available.

It was believed the boys, who were attending the Indian school at Lejac, on the south side of Fraser Lake, left Friday to visit the Nautley reservation at the east end of the lake.

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

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WINNIPEG, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1937.

## Four B.C. Indian Boys Are Frozen to Death On Way From School

**Vanderhoof, B.C.**, Jan. 5. (CP)—Indians in two reservations mourned, Monday, as a coroner prepared to investigate the deaths of four boys, whose bodies were found on the frozen surface of Fraser lake, Saturday night.

The dead are:

Morris Justice, eight, of Unchalake, south of Burns Lake.

Allen, eight, of Nautley reserve.

Johnny Michael, nine, of Unchalake.

Andrew Paul, nine, of Stoney Creek.

The four bodies were brought to Nautley reserve, near Fort Fraser, where Coroner C. Pitts will hold an inquest. The boys, who left the Indian school at Lejac apparently intent upon trekking to Nautley reserve, were found huddled together in the slush-ice of Fraser lake within three-quarters of a mile of their goal.

The bodies, capless and lightly clad, were frozen together. One of the boys had lost one shoe as he trekked over the lake's icy surface.

Fraser lake is about 20 miles east of Vanderhoof and 50 miles west of Prince George. Burns lake is about 50 miles west of Vanderhoof.

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

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Toronto Daily Star.

5-1-37.

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**OTTAWA ORDERS REPORT**

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Officials of the Indian affairs branch are awaiting a report on the death of four Indian boys. As yet the officials have no information on the matter but a full report has been ordered.

Winnipeg Tribune

5-1-37.

## JURY HEARS HOW 4 INDIAN BOYS FROZE TO DEATH

(By The Canadian Press)

VANDERHOOF, B.C., Jan. 5—Recommendation that "excessive corporal discipline in practice" at the Indian school at Lejac, B.C., should be limited, was written today into the findings of a coroner's jury which investigated the deaths of four Indian boys during a trek from the school to the Nautley reservation.

The jury, sitting at Nautley last night, found the boys died in the slush ice over Fraser lake on the night of Jan. 1 from exhaustion and freezing. They found that "such circumstance was unavoidable in view of the evidence in this case."

The verdict said, however, "that more definite action by school authorities might or should have been taken the night on which the disappearance (of the boys from the school) took place."

The boys, all under 10 years old, were found huddled together on the ice Saturday night. They were lightly clad for the bitterly-cold trek they undertook. All were without caps, and one had only one shoe.

Fraser Lake is 20 miles east of Vanderhoof and 50 miles west of Prince George.

Montreal Gazette

5-1-37.

### VISITS INDIAN SCHOOLS

#### R. A. Hoey, Ottawa Official, on Inspection Trip

On his first inspection trip since his appointment December 1, R. A. Hoey, head of the welfare and training services in the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, will visit Caughnawaga Reserve today. Mr. Hoey, former Minister of Education for Alberta, will inspect the public school on the reserve.

He is merely obtaining information about his new work, Mr. Hoey told a reporter at the Windsor Hotel last night, and for the present will make no recommendations. He has been busy for the past month arranging his office at Ottawa, and up to now has been unable to start field inspection. He will eventually visit all sections of the country where there are Indian Reserves, however.

Mr. Hoey is accompanied by J. Christianson, who received his appointment as general superintendent of agents on the same date Mr. Hoey was named. Mr. Christianson, formerly chief inspector of agencies for Alberta, will confer with the Indian Agent at Caughnawaga. Afterwards they will both return directly to Ottawa.

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

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Ottawa  
Journal  
7-1-37.

OUR INDIANS.  
Edmonton Journal.

The Federal efforts to better the position of the Indians have had good results in the Dominion as well as in the United States. But it is felt that much more could be accomplished for them and an enlarged program was announced at Ottawa the other day. The department will devote particular attention to improving their skill as trappers and to helping them to take better care of furs before these are marketed.

There are many other ways in which they can be given assistance that will enable them to reach a higher economic plane. The working out of the plans will be followed with keen interest, as the national responsibility for the welfare of the Indian population is widely recognized.

Toronto Globe & Mail.

5-1-37.

## Four Indian Boys Frozen to Death

### Bodies Found on Ice of Fraser Lake

Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 4 (CP).—Investigation of the deaths of four Indian boys was under way here to-night as Coroner C. Pitts prepared to hold an inquest on the frozen bodies, found on the surface of Fraser Lake.

Huddled together in slush ice only three-quarters of a mile from Nautley Reserve, their goal, the youngsters' bodies were discovered Saturday night. Only today did word of the tragedy reach Vanderhoof, 300 miles northeast of Vancouver.

The dead: Morris Justice and Allen Willie, both 8 years of age; and Johnny Michael and Andrew Paul, both aged 9. The bodies were taken to Nautley Reserve, at the east end of Lake Fraser, for an inquest.

The boys left an Indian school at Lejac, on the southern shore of the lake, apparently intent upon trekking to Nautley Reserve. Capless and lightly clad, the bodies were found frozen together. One boy had lost a shoe as he trekked over the frozen lake surface.

Fraser Lake is about twenty miles east of here in the northern interior of British Columbia.

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

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*Jan 5/37.*

**FIND FOUR BODIES  
Small Indian Boys**

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