



House of Commons
Canada

SEP 17 1945

O t t a w a,
September 14, 1945

Mr. T.R.L. MacInnes,
Indian Affairs Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources,
O t t a w a

Dear Sir:

I met a delegation of Indian representatives at Vanderhoof. I desire to place before you the burden of their plea.

1 - They protest that T. B. spreads rapidly amongst the children who attend the local school. It is alleged that the children will be in dormitories, with no proper care taken to segregate those suffering from the disease and that, consequently, it spreads to healthy pupils. Instances were given by the delegation of children who entered the school healthy, having been thoroughly examined and X-rayed, but who came out a year or so later to return home and die.

2 - They protest that education is neglected to make the school farm pay, that the children would be better off working at home with their parents, if they have to do such work, rather than working for an institution. In this regard I quote the actual words of the delegation, - "The children learn only to pray and milk cows".

3 - The Indians in question strongly urge that they be permitted to establish public schools for Indian children on the same basis as that of schools for white children.

4 - They want some assistance in clearing more land. They want tractors, bulldozers, heavy equipment,

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6443, file 881-1, part 2)

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which is beyond the power of the Indian to obtain himself, but which he sorely needs in order to extend production.

5 - They also insist that the Old Age Pension be paid them on the same basis as it is paid to Canadian citizens generally. They claim that they receive now only \$4 a month and this amount is paid to them in kind as dictated by the Department.

So far as I was able to investigate there seemed to be good cause for the unrest among the Indians. I am, therefore, placing their plea before you in the hope that you will consider the matters herein mentioned and provide, if possible, remedial measures.

Yours sincerely,



W..Irvine,
Member for Cariboo

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