

To be presented at next meeting of Presbytery

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRANDON INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31. 1951.

This year has been one of adjustment to a change in policy on the part of the Indian Affairs Branch of the Federal Government with reference to our program of education.

The grades 9 to 12 pupils were transferred to the Birtle Residential School, which meant a loss of about 30 pupils. This, with the usual losses has meant that we have been operating with at least 10 pupils less than we should have had.

As we finance our school operations under the per capita grant system without asking the Home Mission Board for assistance this has called for very careful financing throughout the whole year. We are glad to report however that we had built up a small surplus during previous years and so have been able to cover our deficit by the use of part of our surplus (the amount used being \$1,500.00 leaving a balance in Government of Canada Bonds of \$3,000.00)

We have had considerable difficulty in staffing the school with competent staff members, having to use the trial and error method, Fortunately we now have a full staff to begin our new year.

This year we have been able to bring in young man as director of manual training and sports, he begins his activities on January 4th. 1952. This will no doubt fill a need that we have felt for some time in the general life of the school.

Farming Operations;

This year has been very difficult owing to the very dry conditions during the growing period of our crops. During the past years we had built up a surplus of grain and hay and so we will have sufficient to put us through to the pasture season without any difficulty. Our garden crops were a failure and the early September frost affected the potato crop to such an extent that we did not dig about 4 acres at all because of the frosted condition of the crop. It will be necessary for us to purchase about 300 bags of table stock and about 25 bags of seed for next year.

For several years we have been handicapped because of conditions under which our livestock have been housed and we are still hoping that the Federal Government will provide a new barn for us at an early date.

We wish to acknowledge the assistance and council of the sub committee of the Home missions Committee of the Presbytery and attach hereto a copy of their last report.

The general health of the children has been good, most cases of sickness being confined to new entrants who have come to us from the northern reservations and have not yet built up an immunity to the various types of infection to which children in the southern sections are prone.

In general we give thanks to Almighty God for His guidance and direction in the problems that arise in a family of 160 children and from 15 to 17 adults who sometimes find it rather difficult to see each other's point of view.

We look forward with anticipation to the year 1952 after making the initial adjustment in our school life feeling sure that this will prove to be a still better year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Scapp".

Principal.

Report of the Special Home Mission Committee, Brandon Presbytery.
on the Indian Residential School. Brandon.

The committee wishes to express its appreciation and satisfaction at the improvements made to the interior of the building. Brightening the walls of the halls, classrooms and dormitories is helpful in creating greater interest in the school on the part of both staff and pupils.

The committee is greatly concerned about the conditions under which the dairy herd is housed. For some time now this school has been seriously handicapped by having to house the dairy herd in makeshift quarters. The health of the herd is suffering because of the lack of sunlight and adequate ventilation. Three valuable cows have been lost recently, one cow which gave the highest output of milk, with an excellent butter fat content, weakened by her efforts and her unfavorable environment died in spite of all efforts on the part of the Veterinary to save her.

We beg to point out that milk is an important item in the diet of a boarding school and every effort should be made to produce it in plentiful supply and of low bacterial count. This it is impossible to do under existing conditions.

The committee is of the opinion that an energetic young man should be employed that would give his time to the development of a physical fitness program, sports, and also to the development of manual training activities. The Indian boys take readily to carpentering and make good workmen. Two former pupils of the school became repair men at the Brandon Experimental Farm, one remained for several years and the other is still on the staff of that institution.

The removal of the senior pupils has taken away those who did a great deal of work on the farm, in the kitchen and elsewhere in the main building. This has led to a rather serious labor situation.

During the past years the per capita grant has been increased by approximately 60%, not at all sufficient to take care of the amount of at least 80% shown in the cost of living index and not at all sufficient to take care of the present and possible future increase in salaries of the school staff.

It would seem therefore that there should be an immediate increase in the per capita grant to balance up with the cost of living and the loss of earning power removed from the school with the lowering of the effective age of pupils from around eighteen years to about 15 years or less. The boys are no longer available for field work on the large farm and the girls are not available for the necessary household duties.

Provision of adequate suitable quarters for the dairy cattle and hogs would tend to develop a liking on the part of the boys for the care and feeding of livestock. At the present time the amount of labor involved in just keeping the barn clean is detrimental to the development of an aptitude for this type of work.

M. J. Tinline

W. J. Spence

J. R. Reid

R. O. Wilkie

H. B. Bedford.