

17th Dec. 1908.

Bishop of Algoma, -3-

children whether the schools in which they were found were carried on efficiently or inefficiently. It never encouraged among the workers the conclusion that this would be done. When the M. S. C. C., entered upon its duties it concluded that this school work was outside the objects for which it was brought into existence. That its subscribers would not be satisfied if their subscriptions were thus applied. The two resolutions dealing with this matter were moved and seconded by representatives from the Dioceses of Montreal, Huron and Niagara. I had nothing to do with these resolutions and did not know that they were to come before the Board until they were presented. At the same time, I believe that they were in the true interest of the Board and of our missionary work, and that they expressed the feeling of the Church generally as to what was our duty in connection with these missionary offerings. No decision or question of location, or numbers, or deficiency, or sanitary arrangements, or the like, were referred to. The matter was brought up, dealt with, and disposed of as one on general principles -- "Is the Board of Management justified in applying the Missionary offerings given to the M. S. C. C., in the clothing, feeding, and education of Indian children?" The Board of Management withdrew no Church aid from these schools for it was not giving it to them. It left it to those interested in these schools to make their appeals and carry on their work or to modify or alter or re-arrange with the Indian Department as they thought best. I cannot understand the extraordinary conclusion at which you arrive.-- "We are pushed into a corner and are having the life slowly but surely squeezed out of us". I do not know of any person who will follow you in this violent conclusion.

(3) You further add: "The Church has relegated the task to the M. S. C. C., Committee. The Committee does not act. Meantime we are dying. It is more than likely our schools will be closed for debt before the Committee speaks or the Government acts." But is this a fair way of placing the matter? At the meeting in September the Committee appointed, named a deputation, and in pursuance of such appointment His Grace the Archbishop of Rupert's Land waited upon the Department and presented the views, especially of the Dioceses of Algoma and Calgary. The appointment of inspectors or experts was urged. The continuation of payments and the discharge of the deficiency. The matter was left with the Department to take up and deal with. The duties of the Superintendent-General kept him in the Northwest until last week, when he returned to Ottawa, no doubt, overwhelmed with the business of his position of Minister of the Interior and Superintendent-General. The Committee has not yet received any word in response to the case presented by His Grace the Archbishop. You were in Ottawa at the time, as was also the Bishop of Calgary, and you were both members of the Indian Committee and could have presented and insisted upon your views if you thought it in your interest to do so.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 4024, file 289,032-2)

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