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TITLE/TITRE R.C. SCHOOLS-IGLOOLIK, N.W.T.

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ACCESSION _____ VOL 497 PAGE(S) 11

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FILE/DOSSIER 630/138-3 (2)

DATE MARCH 2019

Igloolik - April 3 - 4, 1953

We were delayed at Repulse Bay for two days due to bad weather and icing conditions but finally arrived at Igloolik at 12.25 P.M. on April 3. This settlement is located on an island in the Foxe Basin on the N.E. tip of Melville Peninsula on the West Coast of Hudson Bay. There is a Hudson Bay Company post which operates a private commercial radio station. There are two employees at this post. The Roman Catholic Mission has two priests.

The white personnel at this settlement were as follows:-

Hudson Bay Company - Wm. Calder, Post Manager
 Clerk

Roman Catholic Mission - Father Jean-Marie Trebael, c.m.i.
 Father Robert Paradis, c.m.i.

The first priest came to Igloolik on June 29, 1931 and the Mission was established in 1934. The present mission house was built in 1937. Many of the Eskimos here had heard of Perry's visit to Igloolik over 130 years ago.

At the time of our visit there were 88 natives staying at the settlement. The Eskimos here have had plenty of caribou to hunt so there is an ample supply of food for both man and dogs. As a result dog teams are comparatively large averaging about 12-13 dogs to a team. There had been 1 or 2 dog deaths in the fall of the year but apparently no outbreak of disease. The influenza epidemic which caused several deaths in Chesterfield did not affect the natives here.

Father Trebael is putting forth a greater effort to educate the Eskimo than most other Missionaries are doing. Since he began his teaching here in 1949, he has taught 223 natives. He has only an hour a day of formal teaching but more than another hour each day is spent in correcting the work of the students and in preparing booklets for their use. There are about 80 pupils, including adults, attending his classes at the present time.

The subjects taught are as follows:

Cursive writing
Roman printing
Syllabic writing
Arithmetic
English
Reading
Geography
Singing
Health and Hygiene
Religious Education

An unusual feature of his teaching is that cursive writing is taught before he teaches printing. I pointed out to him that it would be preferable to teach script writing first as this would help them in their reading. Cursive writing should be introduced at a later date, perhaps about the third year.

The alphabet is taught first of all, then the words he wishes to teach them are written out using Roman Characters with the word written in syllabic characters underneath.

He also has nouns, pronouns and verbs written in English using Roman Characters with the Eskimo translation written underneath. From these nouns, pronouns and verbs, he presents phrases and sentences. Exercises are typed out for the students to do. He is working out an Eskimo-English dictionary for his own and classroom use.

Another unusual feature of the teaching program here is that Father Trebaol has worked out a system of correspondence courses. Small reading booklets are made and arithmetic exercises are given, to be studied and worked out while the children are away from the settlement. When they return, the work is turned in for correction and new books are handed out. Tea and biscuits are also given to the student when he turns in his completed work.

Some adult education classes are held with the emphasis on conversational English and Geography.

A film strip projector and some filmstrips has been provided for the use of the Mission. Father Trebaol feels that the Eskimo children really learn from these films. He finds them to be very observant. He feels the necessity, however, of a thorough preview and study of the filmstrips before showing them to the children in order that he will have the necessary knowledge to answer all the questions asked about the pictures.

The Priests here feel that about 61 students, Catholic and Protestant, would be willing to attend a residential school at Aklavik.

Father Trebaol is of the opinion that children should be taught in Eskimo the first year and then gradually there should be a change to teaching in English.

Quite a bit of handicraft work has been done by the natives here since there is an ample supply of ivory here. A considerable amount of it is traded to the Mission in exchange for tea and tobacco. These items received are sent to Churchill to be sold at the Museum there.

The following supplies are required:

Scribblers (half-size) - for use with correspondence courses

6 gross of pencils

Bailey Writing Books

Catholic Primers and Pre-Primers

Crayons

Drawing Books 6 x 9

Modelling Clay

Erasers

Scissors

Materials for School Lunch

It is felt that an adequate amount of supplies and text books should be sent to this Mission since good use is made of these materials. It was noted that the books here were covered with paper or oilcloth to preserve them.

Population StatisticsIseelik Area

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Protestant</u>	
0-1	8	13	
2	8	12	
3	5	6	
4	5	13	
5	5	11	
6	6	6	
7	3	8	
8	3	2	
9	3	3	
10	6	3	
11	4	7	
12	4	5	
13	5	7	
14	2	3	
15	4	7	
16	3	5	
Over 16 and adult	65	90	<u>Totals</u>
Total Population	144	211	355
Total number of children	79	121	200
Number of children of school age	45	66	111

J. V. Jacobson
 (J. V. Jacobson)
 Superintendent of Education.

FJGC/PAM

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Northern Affairs and National Resources

Ottawa, 18 December, 1953.

Right Reverend D.B. Marsh, D.D.,
Bishop of the Arctic,
Church House,
604 Jarvis Street,
Toronto,
Ontario.

Dear Bishop Marsh:

At the last meeting of the Special Committee on Eskimo Affairs held in Ottawa on the 20th of October, 1953, there was some discussion regarding the need for expanding the federal day school system in Eskimo territory. A copy of the minutes of this meeting has already been forwarded to you from which you will note that Igloolik, N.W.T., was mentioned as a possible centre for a federal school.

An informal canvass made by our Superintendent of Education while in Igloolik in April, 1953, showed that there were approximately 111 children in the Igloolik area who were at least five years of age and not more than sixteen years of age. Of these, it appeared that 45 were Roman Catholic and 66 were Protestant. I do not know how many of these children live sufficiently close to the settlement of Igloolik to be able to attend a federal day school while living in their homes, but I do not think that the number would be very large.

Before giving further consideration to the question of a federal school at Igloolik, I would like to have the views of those who have an intimate knowledge of the area. I should, therefore,

appreciate your views on the advisability of proceeding with plans to provide educational facilities in Igloolik. In particular, I should like to know whether you think that a federal day school, operated without provision for boarders, would be warranted. I should also like to know whether you would be interested in providing a hostel to board children living in the Igloolik area but too far from the day school to attend it while living at home.

Yours sincerely,

R. G. Robertson,
Deputy Minister.

cc: The R. C. Mission School, Igloolik, N.W.T.

North Admin. & Lands Br.

MAY 19 1954
May 17, No. 630/138-3-54.

PA
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Refer To:

Northern Administration and Lands Branch,
Northern Administration Division.

011	311	52	289
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Northern Affairs and National Resources, R.C. MISSION SCHOOL, IGLOOLIK,
Northwest Territories, c/o Fort Garry Government Terminal Wharf, Churchill,
Manitoba.

Director Northern Administration and Lands Branch, Department of
Northern Affairs and National Resources, Vimy Building, 370 Sparks St. Ottawa.

FOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

1 only	Peter Pan Record Pinocchio	#2238
1 "	" " " Little Black Sambo	#2239
1 "	" " " Snow White	#2243
1 "	" " " Henny Penny - Little Red Hen	#2251
1 "	" " " Silent Night, Jingle Bells, etc.	#2231
1 "	" " " Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	#2252
1 "	" " " Little Red Riding Hood	# 120
1 "	" " " Happy Birthday	# 502
1 "	" " " Marching Songs	#1-19
1 "	" " " Peekaboo	#1-35
1 "	" " " Mary Had a Little Lamb, Lullabies, etc.,	#102
1 "	" " " Circus	# 334
1 "	" " " Peter Rabbit	#1-13
1 "	" " " Cinderella	#1-14
1 "	" " " Alice in Wonderland	#2347
1 "	" " " Alphabet Song, Bo-Peep, etc.	#2240
1 "	" " " The Night Before Christmas, Noel, etc.	#2233
1 "	" " " Humpty - Dumpty, etc.	# 116

1 only Peter Pan Record Counting Song, Mistress Mary, etc. #206
1 " " " Treasure Island #1-23

APPROXIMATE COST F.O.B. CHURCHILL..... \$12.00

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N O T E: The above records are
available from A. J. Freiman, Limited.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

Shipment to reach Churchill
NOT BEFORE THE FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST BUT
NOT LATER THAN THE TWENTIETH DAY OF
AUGUST. The shipping date must be
strictly adhered to. All packing cases
must bear the Departmental Purchase Order
number ON THE OUTSIDE.

FOR COMMITMENT CONTROL ONLY.

COST OF SHIPPING: 011-311-52-289 \$ 1.00

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE COMMITTED..... \$13.00

=====

C. A. GAGNON



M. A. PACKWOOD

cc: The R.C. Mission School, Igloolik, N.W.T.

North Admin. & Lands Br.

May 17,

54.



MAY 18 1954

File No. 630/138-3

Refer To _____

Northern Administration and Lands Branch,
Northern Administration Division.

011 311 52 221

Northern Affairs and National Resources, R.C. MISSION SCHOOL, IGLOOLIK,
Northwest Territories, c/o Fort Garry Government Terminal Wharf, Churchill,
Manitoba. Director Northern Administration and Lands Branch, Department of
Northern Affairs and National Resources, Vimy Building, 370 Sparks St. Ottawa.

FOR PUPILS ATTENDING MISSION SCHOOL.

30 lbs.	Tea, Orange Pekoe, 1's
200 lbs.	Pilot Biscuits
20 lbs.	Cocoa, Fry's, 5's
100 lbs.	Sugar, granulated, white 5's
100 lbs.	Powdered milk, 50's
80 lbs.	Rolled oats
6 lbs.	Table Salt, 2's
5	Gallons Molasses, table, 1's

APPROXIMATE COST F.O.B. CHURCHILL \$185.00

NOTE: The above items are
available from Western Grocers Limited.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

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Purchase Order number ON THE OUTSIDE.

North Admin. & Lands Br.

IGLOOLIK, N.W.T.

JAN 3 1957

(March 27th, 1956)

Refer To

The Central and Western Arctic spring Patrol by air reached Igloolik, N.W.T. from Hall Lake (Site 30 DEW Line) at 11:00 A.M. March 27th, 1956 and departed for Hall Lake again at 3:30 P.M. The trip took 40 minutes each way. It was 38° below zero at Igloolik early on March 27th. It was 15° below zero at 11 A.M. and 60° below at 3 P.M. March is the coldest month.

The Igloolik settlement consists of a Hudson's Bay Company trading post and a Roman Catholic Mission. Each agency employs an Eskimo family with children. The white personnel are as follows:

Hudson's Bay Company:

Mr. Wm. Calder - Post Manager
Mr. Ed. J. Spracklin - Clerk

Roman Catholic Mission:

Rev. Father J.H. Trebaol, O.M.I. In Charge
Rev. Father L. Fournier, O.M.I.

The M.V. "Calanus", Fisheries Department research vessel, was frozen in the ice one mile out where it had been left for the winter. In charge aboard were Captain Hans Andersen and Ed. Grainger. They were studying the habits and size of seals and walrus.

The Igloolik Eskimos are good hunters. Their mainstay for food for themselves and their dogs are seals and walrus. There are a few polar bears and a few caribou back inland. The very young seal here is known as "Mukatogardjuar".

There were 15 native families close by the post. In 1953 there were 378 natives trading into Igloolik comprising 78 families, 167 adults and 211 children one to sixteen years of age. The population is steadily increasing. Sixty per cent of the natives are Anglicans and forty per cent, it is estimated, are identified with the Roman Catholic Church. The natives who were in at the post at Patrol-time were all Roman Catholics. It was reported that there is very little coming to and going from the post on the part of natives during the winter season. It is too cold. The natives of the Igloolik area are at least forty or more miles - distant from the DEW Line and there was little if any, evidence of this secret defensive system having any direct effect upon them.

It was felt locally that the natives of the area should be disrupted as little as possible in their own native way of life and that the young natives should be permitted to receive from their elders at home the practical training so absolutely necessary to their own way of life. These natives are quite nomadic -- they are good hunters, and as with them hunting comes before trapping, they are forever on the move, more so probably in the spring -- seals, walrus, polar bears, beluga, caribou and fish. Fishing, however, is confined to the spring of the year -- some good char (up to 40 lbs.), lake trout average 8 pounds but do weigh up to 29 pounds. The Igloolik area is quite good for seals and walrus. The natives are probably much better off here than many other localities in the North even though some do not trap at all. There are very few wolves in this country. The natives move about in small groups all over the countryside. Their dog teams are somewhat larger than in some other loc-

also -- 10 to 15 dogs comprise the average team. The Igloolik natives have continued to live in a region more or less removed from regular white influence and consequently have remained closer to the true way of Eskimo living. Quite likely they are the better for it as it was reported that their basic store needs are confined more or less to flour, tea and tobacco. The natives use their own stone lamps and burn seal oil. It was reported that in this country the temperature can range from a low of 60° below zero to a high of 60° above. The summer can be wet and windy. The sun is visible steadily from May 26th to July 20th. It is not seen at all from December 1st to January 12th or 13th. It was noted that a few natives wore clothing made of seal skin, the odd ones caribou skin, but due to the lack of skins several wore clothing obtained from the trader. A little carving in soapstone and ivory is done by the natives. As of June 30, 1955 the population of the Igloolik trading area was 411 arrived at as follows:

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Families
Natives	89	89	120	109	85
Whites	4			(1 to 16 years of age)	
Total Native Population				407	
" White "				4	
					411

Included in the total of 407 natives 10 children (10 boys and 10 girls) were away attending school at Chesterfield Inlet and 12 natives were "outside" in hospital. There were 13 families at the post - some 65 to 70 natives in all. These people were living from day to day on seals obtained from open water out at the floe edge.

Regarding the Igloolik settlement it should be noted that the water supply is very poor. There is only a small creek near the Roman Catholic Mission which dries up in the summer. Besides there is much lime in the water from this source.

The Hudson's Bay Company's new boat "Port Severn" supplies Igloolik as well as Repulse Bay and other points along the west coast of Hudson Bay.

Part-time School Effort at Igloolik

The two local Roman Catholic Missionaries conduct school on a part-time basis for the Eskimo children they are able to reach either while families are in the post or by camp lessons given to natives as they come to the post to trade. Father Trebaol gives the instruction when Father Fournier is away visiting native camps.

In March 1956 there were 27 children on the school roll. Instruction was being given in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History, English, Singing and Religion.

The native room in the mission house where instruction is given is 12 feet by 20 feet in size. It has an upright coal stove. There is a blackboard on the wall 4 feet by 4 feet in dimensions.

The missionaries were making up their own lessons for use with children out in the camps -- a correspondence lesson type of programme. Children were taught at the Mission as they happened to be in at the post. Depending upon the circumstances, every week day one or two or three children would have the benefit of some teaching. Instruction was in Eskimo and through that medium English was being introduced. Some were doing quite well in Writing -- large print script. Each pupil had his own exercise book (or "copy book") in Number and Language. Progress in Arithmetic varied according to time at school with the result that some children had made little headway. After all

it would be kept in mind that a school of this nature has very limited possibilities no matter how earnest and conscientious the instructors may be in their efforts to do a good job. For example, for the 60 days school was open from 10 A.M. to 11.45 A.M. each week day the attendance averaged only six while the enrolment was twenty-seven.

The local missionaries, who are not trained as school teachers, were meeting with a favourable degree of success in getting across to the natives the idea of school. This they were accomplishing with little professional assistance apart from the text books and the teacher's guide-books which accompany them. A suitable programme, in outline form at least, would be of great assistance to them. The missionaries are indeed to be complimented for at least displaying originality, initiative and understanding in undertaking on behalf of the Department the intricate problem of training Eskimo children. The fact that they realized the worth of lessons by correspondence and have worked out a system for instruction by this method bears ample evidence of this.

What is needed for part-time teachers in Eskinoland is a simplified teaching programme but one prepared along sound pedagogical lines -- one that can be readily followed by untrained teachers -- one that will be worthwhile for a primitive people like the Eskimos -- one that will take into consideration those elements of instruction which will do the natives some good in their own environment -- one that displays a real understanding of fundamental education -- one that is not too conscious of book learning and grade accomplishment. It may be true that local parents who have children who are now attending school at Chesterfield Inlet were in favour of such type of schooling. One family had refused to send their two children, however, there were only five boys and five girls out of the Igloolik population of 407 in attendance of Chesterfield Inlet, what are the plans for the remaining 219 children? We know that 27 of these were on the roll of the mission part-time school but don't overlook the fact that their average daily attendance was only six -- that is out of a possible 60 days each child attended on the average 6 days -- 54 days out of 60 he was at home. The missionaries were trying to cope with this situation by a system of correspondence lessons which they were taking time out from their regular duties to prepare. In the 6 to 16 year age group there are at least 60 children.

Igloolik is a centre when more should be done to provide educational facilities for the natives. There is a large native population. No matter how great their efforts there is a limit to what missionaries are able to do. After all they have their mission work to do -- the real purpose of their being there to begin with. There may be drawbacks to trying to operate school throughout the year. In spite of this the problem should be faced up to in some way -- attention can be given to a seasonal school -- attention can be given to a system of camp lessons similar to Cape Dorset. There were for that matter, ten children at the post in March, 1956. Natives may not travel much during the extreme cold of the winter but during the summer months -- May to September -- there would seem to be no good reason why a seasonal school could not be carried on. Out of such effort no doubt other ideas would evolve as to how best to meet the Igloolik problem. Should the Department not wish to go to the expense of providing two Eskimo type cabins, one for use as a school and one for use as a teacherage, probably a building or two could be obtained from surplus materials on the D.W. Line and the natives of Igloolik bring the material up to Igloolik by small boat, for re-erection at the settlement.

In any event provision should be made for at least a seasonal school operated on the basis of four or five months during the summer with at least one teacher in charge, preferably two.

The R.C. Mission has a 12 volt electric windcharger. There is no movie projector but the mission is equipped with a filmstrip projector. The mission should be equipped with two new sections of blackboard each 4 feet by 4 feet in size. The mission burns coal, the Hudson's Bay post fuel oil.