
RETURN

To an Order of the House for all correspondence between the Department of Education and any other party or parties, in connection with the re-opening of Campbell's Creek School.

JAMES BAKER,
Minister of Education.

Education Office,
24th February, 1898.

KAMLOOPS, June 18th, 1897.

S. D. Pope, Esq.,
Superintendent of Education, Victoria, B.C.

DEAR SIR,—Although the matter of this school has been well ventilated in the Legislature of the Province and in the local press, I have only now been able to see the affair in its true light; for this reason I am desirous of having some method of publicly explaining the actual position of the matter.

In the first place, as you are no doubt aware, the school at Campbell's Creek was opened for the accommodation of several children, who, by reason of the distance to the Ducks School-house, would otherwise be deprived of any chance to procure the rudimentary education which is by law the right of any child resident in the Province. The school-house was built and furnished by me at my own expense, and what is more, I have also at my own expense kept these orphan children who would otherwise be denied any opportunity of learning those simple things which are so necessary in the present struggle with the world.

This school has now been closed by the Department of which you are the head, and why? Because you are in receipt of letters which contain charges against the scholars, against the place, and against myself. These charges certainly warrant an investigation; to say the least, I should be allowed an opportunity to defend myself and my children against the unfounded indictment preferred by an *hysterical woman* and another party, the latter of whom has no interest at stake whatever. By the way, under date of April 15th, you were in receipt of a letter over the signature of one J. Wilson, who, for your information, appends a memo. to the effect that he is the Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific telegraph lines in B. C. For my own information, I would like to know wherein Mr. Wilson's position as Superintendent of the C. P. R. telegraph lines in B. C. confers authority upon him to interfere in any way with the rights of the children resident in any particular portion of the Province. Moreover, for your own information, I may be permitted to say that I am a heavy ratepayer of the Province, and as such am entitled to some consideration, Mr. J. Wilson, Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific telegraph lines in B. C., to the contrary notwithstanding.

Even if this Mr. Wilson was a ratepayer, an old resident, I would have reason to resent his interference, but as a new-comer, absolutely unacquainted with the facts, as well as with the requirements of the case, I have greater reason for my resentment.

As to the specific charges preferred by Miss Swan, and reiterated by Mr. Wilson, the first was, that one of the largest boys after drinking *half a glass* of water, deliberately threw the balance in the face of the teacher—note that Mr. Wilson says *half a pitcher*. I say positively, and I am prepared to prove every statement made by me herein, that this charge is absolutely untrue, and one thing will go far towards establishing the truth of my statement, *i. e.*, there has never been a drinking vessel of any kind in the school-house since it was built. The other specific charge, that of smearing the teacher's hand with blood, is in effect just as untrue as the first one. Mr. Wilson also says that the trustee, Mr. Campbell, has forbidden her to punish the smaller children; this is untrue. I never at any time prevented her from punishing

any scholar in the school, but on one occasion I did speak to her in reference to the brutality, I can use no other expression, of some of her corrections. One afternoon my youngest child, a delicate girl of ten years came home crying, and on my inquiring the cause, I was told that the teacher had struck her on the arm with the edge of a heavy book, the arm was injured to such an extent that to this day she has not entirely recovered the use of it. A few moments afterwards one of the smaller boys came crying to the house with blood streaming from a gash in his head, which had been caused by Miss Swan breaking a slate upon his head as a punishment for some trivial offence. Again the same afternoon another came in with his knuckle and hand skinned and bruised by the teacher's so-called punishment (*sic*). That day I did speak to her, and strongly condemned her methods of punishment. I do not in any sense of the word object to corporal punishment, but I do in every sense of the word object to brutality on the part of those in authority over children. Miss Swan says she could not punish the larger children, as they were larger and stronger than she. She could have expelled them or suspended them, or she might at least have intimated to me that they required punishment, and I would have spared no pains to make it fit the offence, if it laid in my power to do so. Mr. Wilson says the treatment Miss Swan received from the scholars was very hard to stand from a lot of half-breeds. There is not a half-breed in the school, but even if there were, their rights are as much to be respected as another person's, and such slurs are unbecoming to the pen of even the Superintendent of the Canadian Pacific telegraph lines in B. C.

So much for the charges against the scholars, the school and the trustee. I, too, have charges to prefer against the teacher. In the first place she was absolutely incompetent. To support this charge I will only mention one occurrence; it will be sufficient to substantiate my complaint. One of the boys came to me with a complaint that the teacher refused to show him how to work out a certain class of problem in arithmetic. I spoke to Miss Swan of this and she replied that the boy could do this himself quite easily. I then asked her to show the solution as she was in duty bound to do. The problem was one involving the calculation of interest (an every day commercial transaction) and Miss Swan, after two hours work, confessed to me that she could not do it. Her method of life was not such that would be conducive to her mental alertness or her physical well-being. At eight o'clock she would leave her house, without lighting fire or breaking her fast, and go directly to the school-house, where she would remain until dark; then she would leave for her house and, on reaching it, she would lock herself in, and without even fire or light, except on rare occasions, would stay till morning. She complains of being lonely; she gave herself no opportunity to be anything else. As to her physical and mental condition, neither body nor mind could be normal when she abused herself in the way of eating as she did. In a month and a half she used a pound of butter, three pounds of soda biscuits, less than a pound and a half of bacon and about three pounds of flour. When she came to the house she got half a cord of wood, and when she went away there was still three-quarters of the original pile there, that, too, during six weeks of the most severe weather we had during the winter. As to the supplies, I know what she got as she got them on my account, and I know what she used from the amount left after she quit the school. *Mens sana in corpore sano* in a teacher, of all people, is essential. Could anyone, living as I positively state Miss Swan lived, be the possessor of such? I think not, and I think you will bear me out in my opinion. My own impression is that owing to her method of existence (I cannot say *life*) Miss Swan had become a victim of hysteria in an aggravated form, and that this peculiar mental condition was responsible for the unfounded charges brought against all with whom her duties brought her in contact. I am willing to believe so, I wish to think so, but I do not think I should be the sufferer by reason of it.

I have been put to a great deal of trouble and a great deal of expense in this matter. I do not wish to see the school remain closed when, if a competent teacher be procured, the roll could always be kept above the legal requirements. I am willing to undertake that it will, but before anything else, above anything else I ask that an investigation be instituted inquiring into the matters of which I speak. It is due to me as a ratepayer who has been maligned in the House and through the press; due to the scholars who have to bear the undeserved stigma of brutality, disobedience and discourtesy; due to the parents of these children and due to the Department itself, in order to fix the blame where it belongs.

Trusting that my communication will receive the consideration to which it is entitled.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) LEWIS CAMPBELL.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 6th July, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your communication of the 18th ult., allow me to state that an Inspector will be visiting schools in your neighbourhood after the close of the summer vacation and that he will be instructed to hold an investigation, as requested by you, in regard to the treatment of your late teacher, Miss Swan, by the pupils of the school.

Yours truly,
(Signed) S. D. POPE,
Superintendent of Education.

*L. Campbell, Esq.,
Campbell's Creek, Kamloops.*

EDUCATION OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 14th September, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—The Honourable G. B. Martin, Chief Commissioner, has handed in your letter of the 31st August addressed to him, and which he did not receive until his return to this City.

As to the re-opening of Campbell's Creek School there are no objections, provided the requirements of the Regulations in regard to assisted schools will be carried out.

Allow me to point out that there must be an enrolment each month of not less than ten pupils, and the average daily attendance must not be less than eight. If these requirements can be complied with, any application you make in the matter will, with pleasure, be referred to the consideration of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

I enclose blank form for list of children who will attend the school regularly in case it is re-opened.

Yours truly,
(Signed) S. D. POPE,
Superintendent of Education.

*L. Campbell, Esq.,
School Trustee, Campbell's Creek,
Kamloops.*

CAMPBELL'S CREEK,
September 21st, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 14th September is to hand. I enclose a list of scholars who will be able to attend the Campbell's Creek School. There are eight that reside who will be able to attend school every day and, with the others, there will be no trouble to keep the number on the Register.

I would like you to use your influence with the Honourable Minister of Education to get our school re-opened as soon as possible.

Yours truly,
(Signed) LEWIS CAMPBELL.

*S. D. Pope, Esq.,
Superintendent of Education,
Victoria.*

CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE, BETWEEN SIX AND SIXTEEN YEARS, RESIDENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL DISTRICT AT CAMPBELL'S CREEK.

Surnames of Children.	Christian name or names.	Age last birthday.	Distance from nearest School.	Name of parent or guardian.
Shaver	Alvie Lewis	13	Here, C. C.	Mrs. Shaver.
"	Martha Jane	12	" "	"
"	Lena	10	" "	"
Campbell	Reid	14	" "	L. Campbell.
"	Nettie	10	" "	"
McLeod	Evandar	8	" "	W. McLeod.
"	Willie	7	" "	"
Leonard	David	7	" "	Lew Leonard.
	The above eight reside at the school.			
Knapp	Ezra	12	2½ miles.	R. Pratt.
"	Nettie	10	2½ "	"
"	David	8	2½ "	"
McGregor	Bud	11	3 "	L. C. McGregor.
"	Chester	9	3 "	"
"	John	8	3 "	"
McLeod	Mary	8	6 "	John McLeod.
"	Minnie	6	6 "	"

The first eight will be able to attend the school every day.

There is no danger but what we can keep up the required number of scholars.

Yours truly,

(Signed) LEWIS CAMPBELL.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

VICTORIA, 23rd September, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Having referred to the Honourable the Minister of Education, the application made in yours of the 21st inst., with the names of sixteen children furnished by you as probable pupils of the school, I am directed to state that authority is granted to the Board of Trustees to appoint a teacher, and to re-open the school.

I have this day notified the Secretary of the Board.

Under section 50 of the "Public School Act," the appointment of teacher must be made by a majority of the Board of Trustees at a meeting held for that purpose. It is the duty of the Secretary to immediately notify this Department of the appointment made.

Yours truly,

(Signed) S. D. POPE,
Superintendent of Education.

L. Campbell, Esq., School Trustee,
Ducks School District, Kamloops.

EDUCATION OFFICE,

VICTORIA, 23rd September, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. L. Campbell, School Trustee, having made application for the re-opening of Campbell's Creek School, and furnished this Department with a list of sixteen children of school age, permission has been granted by the Honourable the Minister of Education to your Board to appoint a teacher and re-open the School.

As soon as the appointment of teacher is made, you will please notify this Department.

Yours truly,

(Signed) S. D. POPE,
Superintendent of Education.

J. M. Kinnear, Esq., Secretary Board of Trustees,
Ducks Station.

EDUCATION OFFICE,
VICTORIA, 25th September, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Inspector Burns has made a report of the evidence taken on September 1st at Campbell's Creek in regard to the ill-treatment of the late teacher, Miss Swan. He has also reported the evidence given by Miss Swan to him after his return to this office.

From the evidence taken at Campbell's Creek it is not apparent that the ill-treatment complained of by Miss Swan was accorded to her while, on the other hand, Miss Swan's evidence is in corroboration of her former statements.

As permission has been granted for the re-opening of Campbell's Creek School, I trust that for the future there will be no want of harmony between the teacher and pupils. It is needless to say that it is a waste of public funds to support a school in which proper order and discipline are not maintained. If the teacher is not performing his work satisfactorily to the Trustees they have authority, under section 50 of the "Public School Act," to dismiss him at any time by giving him thirty days' written notice of dismissal, and stating the cause. This notice must be signed by the Secretary of the Board, or by the other two Trustees.

On the other hand, if the teacher is performing his work satisfactorily, it is the duty of parents to encourage him in every way in their power, and to strongly advise their children to strict obedience and diligent study.

Yours truly,
(Signed) S. D. POPE,
Superintendent of Education.

*L. Campbell, Esq.,
Campbell's Creek, Kamloops.*

MONTE CREEK P. O.,
DUCKS, October 10th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that Miss E. L. George has been appointed by the Board of Trustees of Ducks School, as teacher of Campbell's Creek Public School. Miss George has been notified that the Board desires the School to be opened on Monday, 18th of October.

Yours truly,
(Signed) JOHN M. KINNEAR,
Secretary Board of Trustees, Ducks.

*S. D. Pope, Esq.,
Victoria, B. C.*

MONTE CREEK, P. O.,
October 23rd, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to notify you of the opening of Campbell's Creek School on the 18th instant.

Miss George wishes me to ask for four Monthly Reports to be sent to her as soon as possible.

Yours truly,
(Signed) JOHN M. KINNEAR,
Sec. Board of Trustees, Ducks.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

Printed by RICHARD WOLFENDEN, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.
1898.

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