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The Crusader

A Quarterly Review of Current Events in St George's Residential Indian School

LYTTON B.C.

Indian Affairs (RG 10 Volume 6462, file 888-1, part 2)

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.....T H E C R U S A D E R .....

A quarterly review of the doings and happenings at St. George's Indian Residential School, Lytton, B.C.,Canada.

Number 1.

Volume 1.

In presenting this, our first effort in magazine publication, to you, we do so in the hope that it will, should you not have been to Lytton,a means to an end, that of interesting you in our school; and should you be one of the many who know Lytton, and St. George's, that it will revive memories of past days, and give you an insight into any progress that has been made since last you visited with us.

Much of the material used in this short magazine has been prepared by the children themselves, thus providing them with some very essential practice in elementary composition. They have taken a great interest in this first edition, and we would be grateful for a word to tell them that their efforts were worth while.

To those of our readers to whom St. George's is but a name, we would endeavour to pass on a little information regarding our school. The early history of the school and its founders will be dealt with by our Principal,Rev. A.R.Lett, but much else can be said of the school of to-day. We are endeavouring, under rather trying conditions, to impart to some hundred odd Indian children, enough knowledge and training to equip them for life's battle when they leave here; whilst to those who show the mental aptitude, and the necessary physical equipment to handle it, we strive to put them through the Entrance Examination of the Province, and so on into High School. All the children are taught many practical subjects outside of the classrooms; the girls, baking, sewing,laundry,cooking and housework; whilst the boys undertake to assist in working a very large farm, have a chance to learn blacksmithing, and rather elementary shoe-repairing, to learn gardening, and some of the older ones help in the management of a very fine herd of Holstein Dairy-cattle,which supplies the school with much needed milk.

The school is situated some two miles from the village of Lytton, on both transcontinental railroads. To one side of the school, the Fraser River flows, whilst from the east into Lytton comes the Thompson River; but both rivers being very rapid and dangerous, we cannot boast of having an "Ole Swimmin Hole" for our children. The buildings are old at St. George's, very old,some of them, and we hope and pray that the day is not far distant when we will get our long-looked-for new school. Many new outbuildings have gone up in the past few years, the chief being, a large dairy-barn, hog-pens, chicken-houses,silos, besides three new staff cottages, so we have much to be thankful for. But although we cannot get a new school-building just yet, we will carry on and do our best by those entrusted to our care and teaching, and hope that they will grow up to be useful and energetic citizens.

In closing, we will take this opportunity of wishing you one and all,kind readers,the Compliments of the Season, and to all,

"A Very,Very Happy Christmas,and Happiness in the New Year."

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Principal's Notes ,

by Rev. A.R.Lett.

I do not think I could do better than to say a few words about the unique foundation of St. George's Indian Residential School. The school was built by a missionary society known as the "New England Company", founded in 1649, under charter from Charles the Second, who wished to take care of the subjects in what was then known as the New England States. In drawing up the Charter by which the Company should be governed, the King was careful to include within its scope the aboriginal peoples of the newly settled States; hence the interest taken in our Indians by this Company received its birth.

After the U.S.A. gained their Independence, the Company transferred their interests to Canada and worked wholly with our Indian peoples. They built and supported a school for Indian Children at Brantford, Ontario. This school served the Mohawk Indians. Finding that they had sufficient funds to branch out, they built the present school at Lytton in 1902, and since materially added to the building.

We now have a school handling over one hundred children, belonging to the tribes of the Thompson Indians. The school, situated as it is on the banks of the Fraser River, and in the midst of the Cascade Range of the Canadian Rockies, has a particularly picturesque appearance. Nature in all its beauty presents itself to the eye, in the greatness of the mountains, reaching high into the clouds, and extending their snow-capped tops far above the timber line; whilst at their foot or as it were, in between flows the turbulent water of the Fraser, with an altitude at Lytton of six hundred feet.

This comparison of altitude gives the reader an understanding, to a degree, of the vastness of God's book of Nature, and with this wonder, comes a message at this Christmastide. In this glory, beauty, and vastness, is enveloped the thought of the Christ Child, who, although born of humble parentage, wrapped in swathling clothes, and laid in a manger, is above all, and through all that we see. Truly we can say, "Who hath at the end of these days spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through Whom also He made the Universe" This thought ought to come home to us very strongly when we realize in a greater grandeur and lovelier way that He who was born a babe in Bethlehem is Master of all, and we as His servants units, yet in the whole working in co-operation with one another and with Him as guide, sustainer and Master, we can carry out the Angelic proclamation, "Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men".

May we approadh this Christmastide with a message from our surroundings surmounted by the infinitely beautiful message of the Angels, so that the New Year will begin with a stronger incentive to be true and faithful servants to Him who is our Pattern, Priest, and King.

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Staff-Notes.

We welcome but three new members to our staff this year, the school maintaining most of its old staff, which to those versed in work among Indians, is a good sign. We will deal with the new-comers in order.

Miss Aileen McCarthy., our Girls' Matron certainly cannot be classed as an anateur in Indian work. Coming from Alert Bay or somewhere along that treacherous coast, we understand that Miss McCarthy has been many.many moons engaged in teaching, matroning, and the various other jobs that fall to the lot of the Indian worker. We hope that she likes her new surroundings, in which already she has done good work, particularly in connection with the Girls' Concert,recently held in Lytton.

Miss Robson, also,can hardly be classed even as a new comer, for we find out that she was here in days gone by. With many years experience in Indian work, however, we welcome Miss Robson back again, where we hope she will stay long with us in her new position that of House Supervisor.

Mr. W.Hargitt, the new Junior Room Teacher, is a new-comer to this type of work, but he seems to have already found a firm footing, and the children in his room are getting along well.

There are sevral changes in positions on our staff, which we feel might be of interest to our readers;- Mr. W.Rowe, who for three years has presided over the destinies of the Junior Schoolroom, has now taken over the much coveted position of Housemaster.
Miss Muir has taken over the duties of the Boys' Matron, where she rules the Kellys ,Terrys,and Bakers with kindness, but as becomes such imps of mischief, strictness is also very essential. Miss Robson took over Miss Muir's work in the Dining-room, in addition to her new work.

Mr. and Mrs. Lett, and Marjorie have now moved into their new quarters, and the Staff have accordingly moved into the Residence Dining-Room, which gives them more congenial surroundings.(For the house-warming at Mr. and Mrs. Lett's, you are requested to come in parties of four, as accommodation is limited)

Congratulations are in order to both the Stemen's and Demer's families, on the arrival,in each case, of a baby boy. Mr. Demer's ~~latest~~ little boy was baptised the other Sunday, and christened Edwin Carson, Miss Mitchell and Mr Anfield acting as god-parents.

We wish to announce that after long and patient waiting, the Stemps with their little girl, have moved into their new home, where we are sure they will be very happy. Practically all the staff cottages have recently been fitted with full plumbing, which will prove a boon to all concerned.

We are gratified to learn that Mr. Tims benefitted greatly by his short holiday, and trust that he is now fully recovered from his slight indisposition.

The Members in Occupancy of the "SHACK", have forwarded to the editor of this magazine, a most moving letter, deploring the fact that while the other cottages are getting full plumbing, they have been left with a four-gallon coal-oil tin. Their letter has been referred to Mr. Stevens for report of the possibilities of installation.

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All members of St. George's kept Armistice Day with the customary two minutes silence, and in both schoolrooms, special lessons were taught to show the children, many of them hardly understanding what war really is, the true lessons of the Great Struggle for Freedom. In the senior Room, it was decided to hold a competition in the form of a prize essay, the two winners for the Senior Grades being;-
Peter Antoine,age 18, Spence's Bridge, Grade V11.
Eva Tooney, age 14, Grade V1.,Ashcroft.
The two compositions are re-printed herewith.

"Why we keep Armistice Day".....Peter Antoine.

Armistice Day is kept throughout the whole Empire and every Canadian should faithfully observe the request of our beloved King to observe the "Two minutes silence" in honor of those who went and fought to defend our country,King and Empire.

This war was the bitterest human strife even known in the whole history of the world, the whole of Europe being at war, namely,Germany,Turkey,Belgium,France,Balkans,Russia,Palestine,Egypt, Italy,East Africa, and a battle was even fought on the southern coast of South America, at the Falkland Islands.

The human cost of this horrible war was estimated at twenty million soldiers wounded, nine million were killed, three million were taken prisoners, nine million helpless orphans whose parents sacrificed their lives for others, and also five million war widows whose husbands were killed in their effort to save our freedom and Empire. After the war, an epidemic of influenza broke out, caused by the filth of the battlefields, and thirteen million civilians died of the dread disease. The calculation of dead during the war was sixteen thousand per day., whilst the material cost of the struggle was $338,000,000,000 or nine million dollars for every hour of the war.

Our Canadian Indians played a great part in that war,in which some five thousand of them went willingly and they proved to be brave and obedient soldiers.

In the fourth year of the war, the whole world was disgusted with fighting and were now suing for peace,especially Germany who needed it most,for Germany was in utter despair.

The end of the war came when the Armistice was signed on the morning of November eleventh,1918, when all signs of fighting ceases and sadness turned into joy.

The result of the war was that many factories and mills closed down, unemployment was scarce, and many were homeless.

In June,1919, a Treaty was signed at Versailles,France, and the League of Nations was formed to enforce just dealings and to protect the smaller countries, and to try and prevent wars.

Quite recently, the Locarno Treaty has been signed in which all the nations have promised never to start wars anymore.

On each Armistice Day, we usually go to Church and there observe the two minutes silence and we should pray for those who are still in agony, for many are still suffering from wounds they received in the war.

Our duty is that we should keep the example of loyalty they set for us, and to be loyal to our King and country, and to keep faith with those who died for us.

The other compostion, under the same title, written by Eva Tooney,is given overpage.

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Schoolroom notes.

We keep Armistice Day all over the British Empire to remember the first day of peace when the World War ended in 1918.

There were a lot of countries at war, many of them hardly understanding the reasons for fighting. Among them,we find Russia,German,Belgium,Egypt,Austria,France,Turkey,Italy,Africa, Palestine,The British Empire,and the Falklands. In fact, they seemed to be at war all over the Old World.

The loss of the war was terrible, nine million soldiers being killed, thirteen million dying with a disease called influenza, which was casued by filth and dirt; twenty million soldiers came from the war wounded;nine million orphans who have lost their parents during the war, ten millions who lost their homes, and five million war-widows who lost their husbands in the terrible war. The money cost of the war was three hundred,thirty eight billions of dollars,which means nine millions of dollars an hour.

Every country that was at war was desiring peace, and when they got peace, they were so glad that they thought that was the greatest blessing God could bestow upon them.

The end of the war was a great improvement to the world, and now they are signing a Treaty of Peace in Europe showing that all countries desire to have peace.

From the Great War we get Armistice Day, when the first day of peace the World had had since the war began, was celebrated, and on this day we keep the two minutes silence to remember the war. In those two minutes,we keep silent and think of the soldiers that were at the war, and pray for the people that had relations killed, and we hope that God will give protection to the children whose parents were killed in the war.

It is our duty to those who died for us to consider their brave deeds,and to try and sympathize with and help the ones they left behind them, and we must try and be worthy to carry on where they left off, and if we do try, God will bless us for our efforts.

We have had two visits from our Inspector this school-year, and we are pleased to say that Mr. Cairns was very satisfied with our work, but that we must keep on trying all the time. To use his own words, "Education can never stand still."

We wish to thank the Dept. Of Indian Affairs at Ottawa for their kindness in granting us a mimeograph, and to tell them that it certainly fills a long felt want. But for this little machine, we would still be thinking, about a school magazine, instead of reading from its pages, for no matter how much we would like a magazine, costs of printing are out of the question.

Pictures, or to use the more popular expression, the movies, are running again this year in our school, and with a program every two weeks, the children no sooner get through one show, than they begin counting the days to the next one. The film service costs but little as we show in the village of Lytton, charging just a nominal sum to make our expenses of giving a free show to the children.

Two visits from the Dominion Veterinary Inspector give us the happy assurance that our dairy and range herds are in fine condition, free from all disease to which cattle are heir.

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We graduated four girls from St. George's School last term, in the persons of Mamie Mike, Matilda Boston, Ada Angus and Christine Spike, all of whom we were sorry to lose. Matilda Boston has found that life at Stl George's was not so bad after all, as since her graduation, she has been unfortunate enough to have to stay in hospital,suffering from glandular troubles.
Mamie Mike has taken amiably to the dish-pan to ease her heart, which we understand was broken at having to leave S.S.S.
Christine Spike has multiplied her troubles since leaving us, by taking unto herself a "better half". We wish her all happiness.
Ada Angus, another of our graduates,is helping her sister-in-law with housework.

.....Ellen Sherwood.....

Several new arrivals now grace the girls' side, in the presence of Levinia Terry, Mary Jane and Minnie McIntyre, Helen Kanaka, Sarah Blatchford, Emily Bob and Emily Spye.
A Freshman's life is one of turmoil and trouble, as can be seen by the following;-On her second morning here, Minnie McIntyre was busy upstairs, when her little sister, Mary Jane,a little cupid, came racing up, loudly crying, "Where's my Minnie, where's my Minnie ?" She seemingly thought that for a few days,the new comers were carefully deposited in some dark corner.
"Babe Terry", her twin cupid, but sometimes known as "Vinegar", had a splinter in her finger, and whilst it was being removed, suddenly drew her hand away, saying,"Not you,not you,me go to Mr. Anfield", and off she fled to the Senior Room.

.....Margaret McIntyre.....

For the past few terms, the beauty and progress of some of our girls have been marred by the presence of enlarged tonsils, but we are pleased to tell you that in October, the skill of Drs' Wilson, Senior and Junior, enabled these horrible lumps to be removed, and now thirteen girls are making rapid progress.

.....Rosèe Cisco.....

All the girls and boys in the Senior Room now keep "Health Charts", and they are trying hard to obey all the good health rules on them. Two of the Grade Vll pupils managed to make perfect scores for teeth cleaning for two months. Both Mr. Lett, and Mr. Anfield, our Senior Teacher have remarked on how much healthier we are looking.

.....Adeline Phillips.....

A very pretty cantata was given by the girls of St. George's Sch. during the latter part of October, featuring Elvira Nowell as "The Moon Queen", Bessie Walker as "The Sun", Ellen Sherwood and Rosie Cisco as "The Prince" and "Princess", Margaret McIntyre and Ellen James as "morning and Evening Stars", and many others. The whole Girls' school provided the choruses. The proceeds which amounted to about forty dollars were used to purchase a gramaphone and records for the girls' side.

.....Eva Tooney.....

The girls are taking a great interest in their drill and singing

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Echoes from the Girls' Side. (Cont'd).

The Girls' mottoes may be summed up in these words,"Early to bed, early to rise makes us healthy,wealthy and wise, when mixed with plenty of exercise." We wish you to take notice through the coming term of the strides of progress that the girls are going to make.

........Gladys Wish...........

The Lord Bishop of Cariboo, Dr. Walter Adams,who was recently consecrated at Kamloops, paid us his first official visit on Sunday,Dec.6th. The Bishop took the early service, and preached at the eleven o'clock service, at which there were a large number of Indians , as well as many of the Lytton people. He preached to us about "Life",telling us that it meant,"Love,Innocence,Fear,and Endurance". All the children liked the Bishop very much. Mr Lett told us that he would try and have a Confirmation class the next time the Bishop came to our School.

..........Bessie Walker........

We had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Cairns,our School Inspector,the other week, and we are pleased to hear that we received a good report. During the inspection,the girls held their own against the boys,which shows that the girls are working hard at their studies. Like the "Hare and the Tortoise", we believe,"Slow and steady wins the race". The girls will win out yet,so you boys, watch out.

...........Janet Peters..........

The weather at Lytton is now quite cold and chilly, but we have not had much snow yet, although we are now in the month of December.

...........Ethel Bertrand.........

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Our readers will be pleased to learn that the back cover of this little magazine was taken from an original design drawn by one of the girls, Janet Peters, Grade VII.

The front cover is the work of our Drawing Teacher and Housemaster, Mr. W.S.Rowe, whose hard work has enabled us to win many prizes for art at the Provincial Exhibition during the past two years.

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We would like to ask our readers who receive this edition by mail to pardon us if the copy does not, as we hope it will, reach them by Christmas. We have been rather rushed in school lately,and have not got down to business quite in time.

By the way, if you should write to us to tell us that you like our magazine, would you put in a stamp or so for the next edition. We, like all Indian Schools, are poor, and as we are printing one hundred copies, and do not want to make any stated charge, leave it up to our readers . Thank you.

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"Thunder from the Boys' Side."

We have pictures, or movies,every two weeks, and we are usually very interested in them. Our shows are on Fridays at the school, and the show is then run in Lytton for the people there. Our picture machine is insured against fire and theft.

.....Williamson Walkem.....

The boys of this school are very interested in sports,and especially the active ones. The following games are played;-Baseball.We have played many teams, and have usually been able to beat them. Basketball is the next game that the boys play very much.The boys are very fond of this game,which is played in the winter months. Football has been started recently, all the boys from big to little ones taking part in this game,which is under the direction of our Junior Teacher Mr. Hargitt, We have also decided to start the game of Rugby. The boys of this school all try to be good sports in their games.

.....Simon Baker.....

When Mr. Rowe told us before the holidays that all the good drawings we did would be sent to the Provincial Exhibition at New Westminster, we all tried very hard, and some of the work was very good. This work was sent to New Westminster and we are glad that we won first prizes for what we sent in.

.....John James.....

We have had five new boys this term. Francis Walkem from Spences Bridge;Sandy James from Lillooet;Tommy Hewitt from Ashcroft; Joseph Swakam from Merrit;and Benjamin Thomas from the Seven Mile at Lytton.

.....Jimmy Peters.....

Many new buildings have been erected recenlty. The construction is as follows;A large barn,a pig-pen,and a chicken pen which some of the boys helped to build. Two houses for the farm staff and a house for the Principal and his wife. All the new buildings are situated in good places, lots of water, and water that no cattle can get into and cause disease for those who use the water.

.....Joseph Antoine.....

The boys have drill twice a week in which they have lots of fun and enjoy themselves. First we go through strenuous exercises, and after drilling we play basketball and other indoor games. Drill is one of the factors of the Health Game,and it strengthens our whole system, and develops our bodies.

.....Peter Antoine.....

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Please address all letters in connection with this magazine to,

F.Earl Anfield,
St. George's School,
Lytton, B.C.

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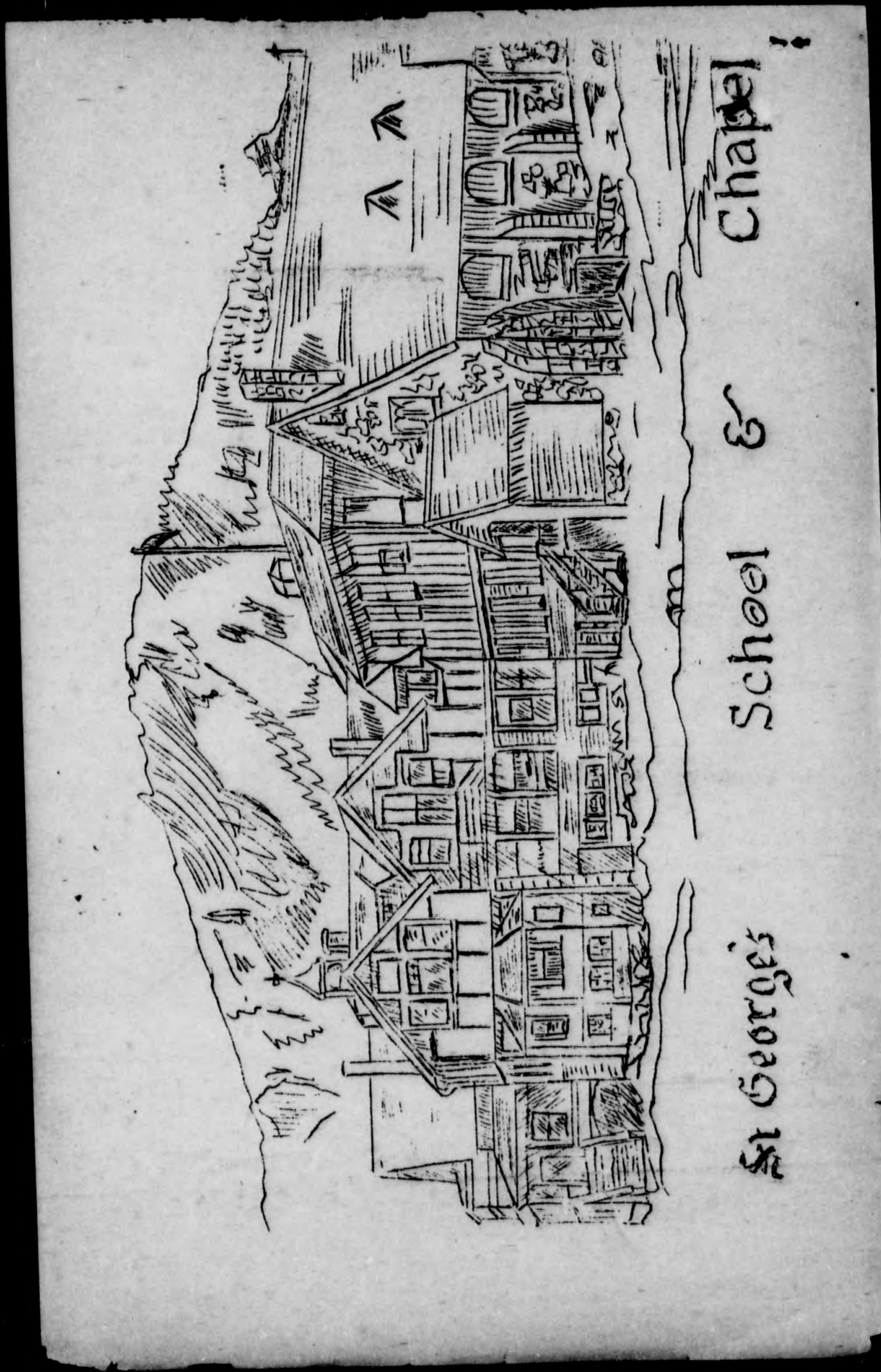

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