

Finding Aid 15: **Board of Moral and Social Reform.**

Reviewed File: 1973-1010-2-15. **Mixed Marriages.**

This is not on inter-racial marriage, but on marriages between Presbyterians and Roman Catholics. Therefore, not useful.

DAVID ANGUS SMITH FONDS.

Cite as:

Presbyterian Church in Canada, David Angus Smith Fonds, File number (as noted below)

* requested photocopy of one letter

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO (from finding aid):

"David Smith (1887-1964) was a Presbyterian Minister and Superintendent of Chinese Missions for Canada for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. He was born in Dundee, Scotland, and came to Canada in his teens. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of British Columbia, and completed his theological training at Westminster Hall. His first charges were Cedar Hall and St. Aidan's in the Presbytery of Victoria, in 1918 and 1919. He went to Hong Kong in 1919, to study and work as a missionary, and returned to work in the Chinese Missions in Vancouver in 1922. In 1925, he was appointed **Superintendent of Chinese Missions for Canada**, and held this post until he retired in 1962. In that year, he was also honoured with a Doctor of Divinity degree from Presbyterian College, Montreal. D.A. Smith was also interested in the history of the Presbyterian Church in British Columbia and wrote several essays on the topic. David Smith passed away on August 7th, 1964."

FILE 1973-5012-1-9 "Correspondence and report re: Survey of the interior of BC"

Smith toured BC for the Presbyterian Church, in August 1925. Letter of Aug 22 1925 talks about his campaign against "union" [with Methodists and Congregationalists as United Church of Canada] in various towns. File contains not much more than this single, detailed, 6-7 page handwritten letter. Goes to Nakusp, Armstrong, Canoe and other places. eg. Kamloops - particularly interesting that the Church was meeting there in the Masonic Temple, which was used for dancing several nights a week: "Moreover, this hall is used almost every week nights [sic] for dancing - and that so long as this continues there are ever so many people who positively refused to come out to service." Nowhere else to meet. "They simply must get a new place of worship or capitulate to the Unionists, or as is most likely to be done by most - leave off trying to hold together the group and join up with the local Church of England."

FILE 1973-5012-1-10 "Correspondence and report re: Survey of Northern BC"

Consists of another letter, to Dr. Cameron. The survey was three weeks. Such a "survey" consisted of travelling to towns like YPR and YXS and finding out if there are Presbyterians there and what they were up to. He didn't have much info to go on when he started out.

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"SURVEY - Northern British Columbia 1946" By Rev. David A. Smith

Excerpts: (p. 1) "At the request of the Mission Board, a survey was made, in the month of June of the territory between Prince Rupert and Prince George ... The purpose of the survey was to explore the possibility of re-establishing the Presbyterian Church in this area."

"While there was an urgent demand for the survey on the part of those interested, there was no definite information available as to any possible Presbyterian group in any section, nor were there even names of individual Presbyterians available. These had to be sought out, which was no easy task, because of the length of time our Church has been absent from this area and, alas, because of the fact that those who are, or have been Presbyterian, are now, more or less, perforce, interested in one or other of the Churches in the various settlements." ...

(p.3) "There is no doubt if our Church is ever going again into this North country this is the time to do it. As a Church we have been out of it twenty-five years. That is a long time. There are Presbyterian people there, and more going in each year. True, they are scattered, and from a Church-attendance standpoint, uncertain. But our church surely still has a place, as it also surely has a place in other long stretches of territory in other parts of B.C., where our Church has not been at work since 1925." ...

"As one ardent United Church lady said to me one day, when I was making the survey, and told her how remarkable a recovery our Church had made throughout these years following the Disruption of 1925: "I never knew, I thought the Presbyterian Church was on its last legs: (and there are many in that north country who have been thinking so) "Yes, " I said, "it IS on its last legs, but these legs also happen to be its first. Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. That is the foundation. That, its enduring power."

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Mrs Daniel Strachan;
Toronto, Ont.

Re - "Nursery School"
Vancouver B.C. 175 10th Ave. E.
Vancouver, B.C.
June 24th 1943.

Dear Mrs Strachan;

Your letter written from Hamilton came to my hand in the Kootenay country from which part of the Synod I have just returned.

I note your decision regarding the proposed Nursery school in Vancouver, and your suggestion that the Presbytery should be consulted, and their approval asked, and the Advisory committee here informed of the move. I think, of course, that such a course is necessary. What attitude they will take toward it I do not know. There is generally a sort of free-for-all when matters of this kind are proposed in these quarters. I see that the meeting of Westminster Presbytery has been called for this coming Tuesday June 29th at 7.30. This is a special meeting (regular business will be done at it of course)--a pre-holiday one in order to hear the reports of ministers and Elders and commissioners to the General Assembly. This will be the last meeting of Presbytery till the first Tuesday in September. I do not know whether you think it advisable to bring the matter to this meeting of Presbytery or wait till September. If you think something should be done now a wire in time for Tuesday morning, when the Mission committee is to meet, and they could at least discuss the matter. That would, of course, not give any time to the Advisory committee to think it over, if they too have to be informed.

Since returning I have made particular enquiries into the question of sites, as well as the need. The enclosed newspaper cutting will tell you of something along the line already planned locally by Social Service Societies. Also I called on the lady who is heading this movement in the city in the hope that I secure helpful information regarding this Nursery School need. She told me of this "newspaper cutting" plan. This is, as you see, for the summer months only. What is to happen in the fall will, she says, depend on the success of these "play" schools. They are hoping to have three Kinderbartens in the fall developing out of these "play" schools. The Gordon House in the west end of the city, 4 blocks only from Central Church is to have one of these. The other two are to be at Kitsilano district, and in the Strathcona school area...very neat to our Chinese mission in the east end. These are three working mother areas. There is another working mother area near our Mount Pleasant church between Oak St and Cambia St. Since this other organization is to have or try out schools at these other three places, this Mt Pleasant area might be a suitable one for us to consider. There is a suitable room too in Mt Pleasant church. (I have not of course discussed the idea with any of the Churches or Church people here). Central Church of course is not out of the question. There may be sufficient children in that area for another school in addition to what is proposed to be done at the Gordon House. There is too another district ..Grandview...but the IWCA has already opened up a room ..Club room...for mothers and children.

This is just a quick survey of the area. The young lady if, and when, she comes could no doubt, after opening up work decide on the logical centre for her work...so that it would not interfere, but be a help to, any thing this other Social Service organization is doing or going to do.

I hope this helps. I go to Victoria to morrow but will be back here again on Monday.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

FILE 1973-5012-1-14 "Correspondence with Mrs. Daniel Strachan" [...etc.]

An exchange of letters about opening nursery schools in Vancouver, 1943.

eg. Letter from David Smith to Mrs. Daniel Strachan, June 24, 1943. Photo-copied.