

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

1/25

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CHAIRMAN

Board of Home Missions
The United Church of Canada

299 QUEEN ST. WEST
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ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

Dec. 26, 1944

Rev. W. P. Bunt,
807 Dominion Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Bunt: Furniture, Japanese Church,
Ocean Falls, B.C.

I have your letter of Dec. 18th, with cheque from Rev. E.S. Fleming of Ocean Falls, covering proceeds of the sale of furniture that was formerly in the Japanese Church there. On the advice of the Bank of Commerce officials here, we are sending the cheque to the Ocean Falls branch to be completed.

I note you refer to the money as belonging to the Japanese Trust Fund. Our understanding is that the furniture that was in the Ocean Falls Japanese Church belonged to our Board, but if you have other information, we will be glad to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

R. Bunt

HC

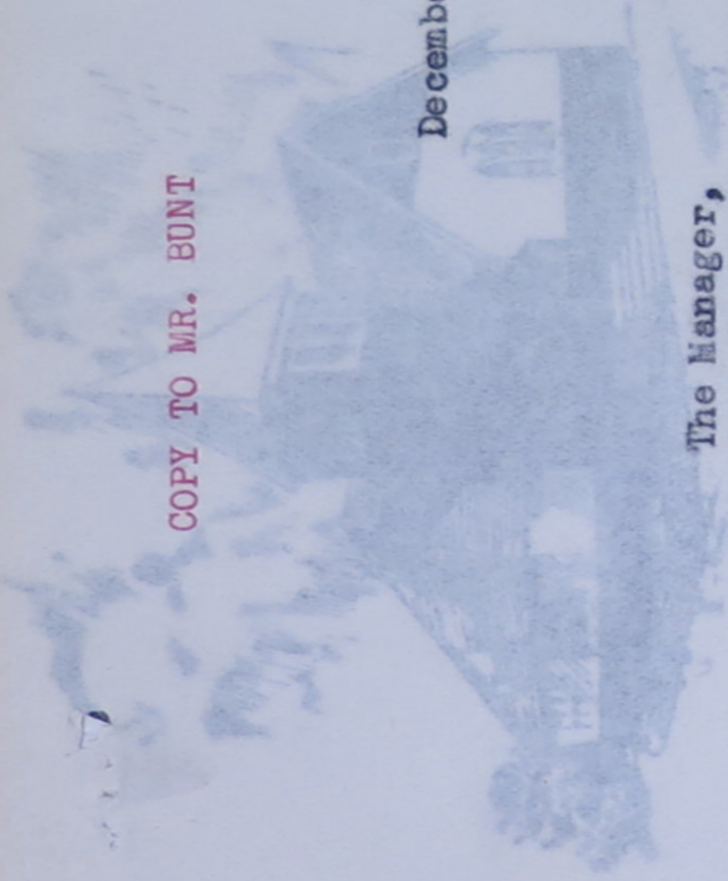
HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

1/25

OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH

OCEAN FALLS, B.C.

December 26th, 1944



COPY TO MR. BUNT

The Manager,
Canadian Bank of Commerce,
Ocean Falls, B. C.

Dear Sir:

We have received the enclosed cheque from Rev. E. S. Fleming of Ocean Falls. You will see that Mr. Fleming evidently was not sure of the number of the trust account, nor of the amount of the balance. Will you kindly complete the cheque and return it to us?

Thanking you for your co-operation,

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Young's letter, and what
at once to see Mr. Young. He was frantically busy at the moment, pending to be set by
Thankover for the annual labour agreement conference. He had received Dr. Young's letter,
but felt that there was not much to be done about it. He had assumed, as I had always
assumed, that it was the company's building. In any event, he spoke of it as a mutual
venture, and that the purpose of the lease, manifestly was for the purpose of a church, and
that that need no longer be a matter. He assumed that the spirit of the agreement had been fully
filled. He did ask me if I wished to take any action regarding salvaging lumber, etc. but
I said I was in no position to do that. That I had removed the doors, and windows, and furni-
ture, but could not attempt to wreck the building. He said he would take the papers to
his lawyer to have their attorney draw up a formal release. You may have heard something of
this in the meantime. I did remind him of the \$2000. investment, and left the way open for
him to make some offer. But there was no thought of any such thing. He mentioned it as a
"mutual venture". If I had had the letter earlier, or more time with him, I might have got
something out of the plumbing.. the toilet, and the new British box set in by the con-
struction last year. The company man salvaged these a month ago.

HC



OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH

OCEAN FALLS, B.C.

REV. EVERITT S. FLEMING, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.
MINISTER

MANSE 3RD AVENUE

May 4, 1942.

Rev. W. P. Bunt,

Supt. of Missions,

Dominion Bank Bldg., Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Bunt :

Enclosed please find requisitions for this presbytery for the month of June. I have made them out thus early, for I expect to be at Conference at the usual time of filling them out. In any event I do not suppose there will be any alterations between now and then.

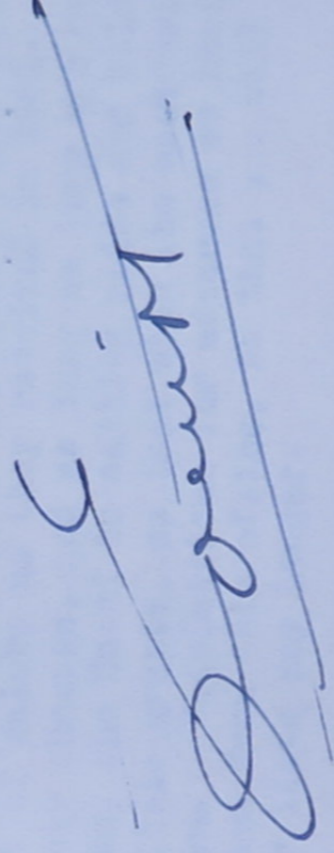
Thanks for your recent letter. I received Dr. Dorey's letter, and went at once to see Mr. Young. He was frantically busy at the moment, packing up to go to Vancouver for the annual labour agreement conference. He had received Dr. Dorey's letter, but felt that there was not much to be done about it. He had assumed, as I had always understood, that it was the company's building. In any event, he spoke of it as a mutual venture, and that the purpose of the lease, manifestly was for the purpose of a church, and when that need no longer existed, he assumed that the spirit of the agreement had been fulfilled. He did ask me if I wished to take any action regarding salvaging lumber etc. but I said I was in no position to do that. That I had removed the doors, and windows, and furniture, but could not attempt to wreck the building. He said he would take the papers to Vancouver to have their attorney draw up a formal release. You may have heard something of this in the meantime. I did remind him of the \$2000. investment, and left the way open for him to make some offer. But there was no thought of any such thing. He described it as a "mutual venture". If I had had the letter earlier, or more time with him, I might have got something out of the plumbing.. the toilet, and the new Switch box put in by the congregation last year. The company men salvaged these a month ago.

About a week ago Thursday, that would be, April 22, 1942, the church was committed to the flames. It was the last building in the vicinity to be fired. It made a terrific blaze. It was just at dusk, but I tried taking some snaps of it, which you may see at Conference if you wish. I hope they turned out moderately well.

If you think it is worth while we could still go after some compensation for the materials they salvaged. At the moment I saw him he was in no mood to consider any suggestion. Besides that of course, they did put a lot into it themselves, last year, and probably think they are doing their share.

Looking forward to seeing you at Conference, and with all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ESF.


OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH

OCEAN FALLS B.C.



April 28th 1942

Rev. E.J. Fleming,
Ocean Falls, B.C.

Dear Mr. Fleming,

Just a brief acknowledgment of your letter of the 15th which was here when I returned to the office yesterday.

In the case of Mr. Kabayama, and the other Japanese Pastors, we have not yet been able to settle them in any work, but are hoping that shortly some of them, and particularly Mr. Kabayama, will get off to a field. In his case, we have the Southern Alberta beet growing area in mind. The Board of Home Missions is standing back of these men and is guaranteeing to them the same amount of salary as they received in 1941. If they do not immediately need their cheques, and as long as they are here in Hastings Park they do not need them, the Board is setting aside and holding in trust for them the amount of their grants, so that when the need arises the money will be available for them. Requisitions for advances on their salary will be made from time to time from this office, so that you will not need to include Mr. Kabayama in your lists, any longer.

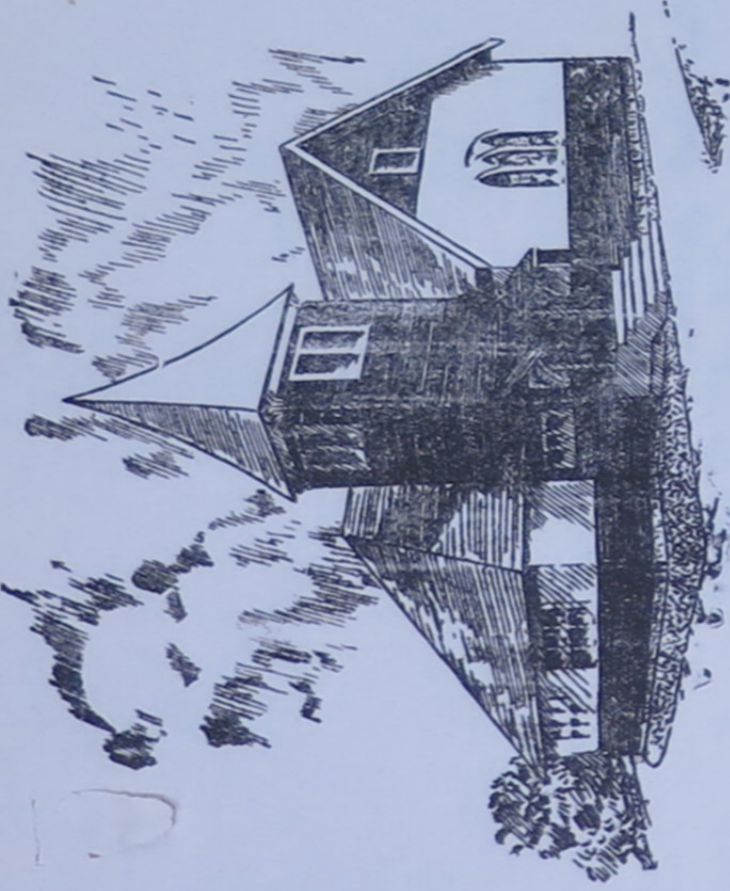
Probably you have heard from Dr. Dorey recently to the effect that the Church owns (or owned) the building which the Japanese used in Ocean Falls. This was news to me until I was in Dr. Dorey's office and he acquainted me with the fact that the Board of Home Missions put \$2,000.00 into the building originally and holds it on a 99 years lease from the Pacific Mills Ltd. Dr. Dorey said that he would write the Manager and send you a copy of the letter, but if you have not heard from Dr. Dorey it might be well to drop in and acquaint the Manager with this fact. Of course for your own information, the Home Mission Board will not press any claim, but it will be interesting to see what compensation the Company may offer, if it has already bargained down our building. Doubtless there will be in the Company's safe, a copy of the lease which I saw when in Toronto, or two at a time, and the others are...

They have May. I say that we appreciate very much the effort put forward by yourself to salvage as much of the furnishings of our church as you could. We will have a chance to go into matters more fully when you are down at Conference.

With kind regards to Mrs. Fleming and yourself, often too, which I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

... instrument, of very fine heavy case. I think of Mahogany, or black walnut. I thought I had it sold to some...
... Falls Coole, but they couldn't find the case. I suppose you do not have of...
... plan where it would pay to ship it? ...
... services. ...



OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH

OCEAN FALLS, B.C.

REVEREND S. FLEMING, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.
MINISTER

MANSE 3RD AVENUE

April 15, 1942.

Rev. W. P. Bunt,
Superintendent of Missions,
Dominion Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Bunt :

I am sending you the requisitions for the next month, and for the current quarter. As you see in the case of Kitamaat, I have assumed that the new rate of \$1100.00 is effective at the present time. I have not, however, made allowance for the first three months of the year at this rate. I am not quite sure how that should be done.

In the case of Kabayama, I have filled in his form as usual...with the explanatory note attached. Are they being fed en masse, or are they individually responsible for their own costs. If so, he must be in need of money. I assume something should be done about his freight bill too, and removal expenses generally, but suppose that will be looked after from Toronto.

The Local fire department is making a clean sweep of Jap town. Over half of the houses have been burned..one or two at a time, and the others are due to go directly. They have burned from both ends, and the church still stands, but is due to go very shortly. I salvaged the doors, windows, chairs, and the bell, as well as a few things belonging to Kabayama which are for sale. O yes, I got the organ too, which I am offering at twenty dollars. It appears to be a splendid instrument, of very fine heavy case..I think of Mahogany, or black walnut. I thought I had it sold to some Indians at Bella Coola, but they couldn't find the cash. I suppose you do not know of any place where it would pay to ship it? Weather fine.. spring is here. Had fine Easter services.. Sincerely yours... ESF.

OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH
OCEAN FALLS, B.C.

March 24th 1942

Rev. S.S. Fleming, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.,
Ocean Falls, B.C.

Dear Mr. Fleming,

Yours of the 21st came in yesterday afternoon. Yesterday morning at 7.30 I was down to meet the "Adelaide" expecting that the Kabayama family would be on that boat, but as you know they came C.N.R. I did not know that the C.M. boat arrived here on Monday, and consequently they were not met and when I learned that they were in town they were then all out at Hastings Park. Although Mr. McWilliams and I have been working on the problem today, yet we have been given no hope of getting them out of the park, as up to date not a single exception has been made. However, we are continuing to try and find them lodgings out of the park and to secure permission to move them. I feel very sorry for the Kabayamas but we are strictly limited in the extent to which we can do much for these people.

Regarding the cost of the 'phone call to Vancouver in Kabayama's interests, you might enter it on a requisition form, heading it Convener's Expenses and mail it to me at 299 Queen Street W., Toronto. I think the Board will readily agree to foot the bill.

In the meantime you had better hold the proceeds from the sale of any of the chairs etc., belonging to the Japanese Mission, and I think it would be well to turn into cash as much of the furniture as you can. Doubtless some policy will be set up by the Board, and I think that will be necessary for it looks now as if the Government will spend all of the personal resources of the Japanese before it begins to provide for them out of public funds. It may be that the Board itself will hold in trust any monies belonging to our Japanese pastors until such time as they are free to use them again.

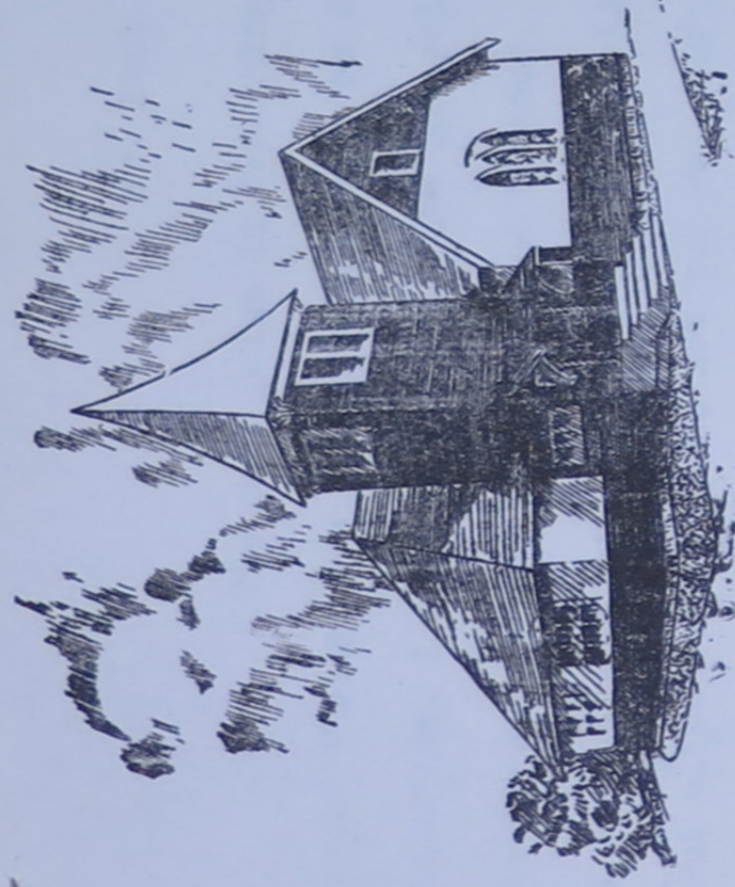
I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Thanks for the copies of the letters which you sent, and I return them herewith.

With kind regards,

I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

W.S. Bunt
Convener



OCEAN FALLS UNITED CHURCH
OCEAN FALLS, B.C.

REV. EVERITT S. FLEMING, B.A., B.D., S.T.M.
MINISTER

MANSE 3RD AVENUE

March 21, 1942.

Rev. W. P. Bunt,
Superintendent of Missions,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Bunt :

Your wire arrived just as I was completing these requisitions. I shall let Kabayama know directly. He was here this morning, however, and I assured him that my understanding of the case was that he should be ready by Sunday morning. The chief of Police has been very considerate in the whole matter, and told me as late as yesterday afternoon that he had taken it upon himself to allow him to remain pending further orders. However, those orders came through last night, and were quite definite. My main purpose in phoning was to be clear as to whether there was any point in us footing the bill for his removal, or whether there would be any place to use him upon arrival. But since everything is in such a muddle it is obvious that he will have to be in the hands of the commission for some time.

However, I cannot quite get the situation regarding the men out there. Why are they allowed at large, while these are being removed? Or is that something nobody knows? I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Kabayama's letter, and one of the reply from Presbytery. I sent a copy of these to the Observer a week or two ago.

The situation here has become rather highly "charged". Gossip, rumour, and their ilk have been very busy. So far I can find no foundation for them, though to be frank there are serious suspicions in high places. I have made candid enquiries of the police, and one or two in the Legion, but can find no tangible charges...except a dubious matter concerning a short wave radio, which was a surprise to me, as he always claimed to have just the old relic there in the front room. However, I feel sure that the current talk is simply part of the national animosity, augmented by rumor and speculation and gossip.

1/25

Mr. Bunt 2. March 21 /42.

The only point in referring to these things is to suggest that I personally doubt whether any good purpose will be served by wide publicity of these letters in the meantime. I am afraid people are not going to be open to logic, reason, or common humanity in these matters for some time to come. In view of press reports and such like at the moment, I am not very sure what effect the publication of these letters in the Observer may have. But of course they are not out yet, and may not be published in full. On the face of it, all this sounds rather absurd, but I am afraid that people simply go in reverse in these matters, or feed their prejudice on whatever comes to hand.

I would be glad to have these copies back, as I had to amend the roughly drawn Presbytery epistle somewhat and this is my only copy.

With reference to the requisitions..I think they are all as formerly except for Kitamaat. I altered it in line with the action of Presbytery and the Home Mission Committee. Perhaps I acted prematurely.

I, cidentally my phone call cost a matter of \$3.55. Should I stand that, the Presbytery, the H.M.B. or who ?

Best wishes, for you in all this turmoil, and regretting I did not have time to stay to the end of the meeting the other day...all of which I found very interesting...

Sincerely yours....



P.S. I have sold the chairs from the church, sixty-six of them at 55¢ which should make about \$36.30. There is the organ, and something may be had for a few small chairs.

We shall see about that. He has sent his communion set to Vancouver, and said something about letting us have it at Conference time..if there is no occasion to use it there.

Mr. Kelly wants it for Queen Charlotte . E.

P.S. If any body should ask you. I would be willing to go to sixth ave. and handle enough supplies in the afternoon! J.