

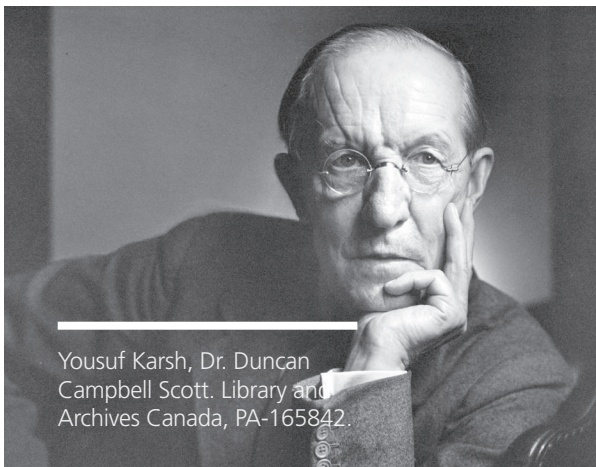
Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs—The Indian Problem

Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, suppressed Dr. Bryce's incriminating recommendations and terminated the position of Medical Inspector.

In a letter to an Indian agent, Scott reveals his knowledge of the deaths at the schools:

It is readily acknowledged that Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by habitating so closely in these schools, and that they die at a much higher rate than in their villages. But this alone does not justify a change in the policy of this Department, which is geared towards the final solution of our Indian Problem.

Instead, Duncan Campbell Scott negotiated a joint agreement between the federal government and the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Methodist churches. This agreement established the structure and mandate for what would now be termed "Indian Residential Schools" and the contractual obligations of the churches responsible for running them.



Yousuf Karsh, Dr. Duncan Campbell Scott. Library and Archives Canada, PA-165842.

The new "residential" schools would focus on primary education in an effort to forcefully "civilize" and Christianize Indian children. The change in name did not help the Aboriginal children, however, and the abusive treatment and poor conditions that were killing them did not improve.

Duncan Campbell Scott was determined to find a "final solution to the Indian Problem." He explained:

I want to get rid of the Indian problem. I do not think as a matter of fact, that this country ought to continuously protect a class of people who are able to stand alone... Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department.

DID YOU KNOW?

The term "final solution" was also used to describe the systematic genocide of European Jews during World War II. Heinrich Himmler was the chief architect of the plan, and Adolf Hitler termed it "the final solution of the Jewish question."

Duncan Campbell Scott is better known as a prominent literary figure and as one of the Confederation poets along with Charles G.D. Roberts, Bliss Carman, and Archibald Lampman.