

Mrs Andrew Carnegie, LL.D.,
2 East Ninety-first Street,
New York.

5th January 1940.

Dear Mrs Carnegie,

I have just received your cable this morning with your good wishes for the new School. I am surprised to hear of the time taken in letters reaching you especially as some of your letters came through very quickly.

The opening of the School went off most successfully. Mr and Mrs Gordon Thomson could not wait for the opening, as Mr Thomson is very busy in Edinburgh, but Mrs Thomson Senior kindly came up. A Deputation from the County Council comprising Mr John Ross, Brora, the Convener, Provost Murray, Mr Hugh Ross, Director of Education, Mr Argo, County Clerk, and one or two other members came. The school children marched across from the old School about five minutes to twelve and assembled in the large class-room of the new School. The above members, Mrs Thomson Senior, ourselves and a few of the parents also met. The Reverend Mr Macleod, Dornoch, opened the proceedings with prayer, after which I gave a description of your interest in the old school; how it was built; carried on, and subsequently handed over by Mr Carnegie and yourself, following up with an explanation of your offer for the conveyance of school

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school children to Dornoch and how it was not accepted, and I explained that that offer was made entirely for the purpose of delaying the repairs to the old school in the hope that a new school would be forthcoming; that at the same time you had no desire, and that there was no thought in your offer of having a school entirely done away with in Clashmore. I then asked Mrs Whittet to hand over the title deeds to the Convener, who accepted them and made a very nice speech about the Carnegie generosity and interest in education and various matters. He then handed over the Disposition conveying the old school back to you, which I accepted. Speeches were then made by the Reverend Mr Macleod, Provost Murray and Mr Hugh Ross, Director of Education, all expressing their great appreciation of your very kind interest and your very generous donation.

A full report of the ceremony is in today's Northern Times so that you will be able to read it. Some passing photographer must have taken a photograph of the school recently as it appeared in the Bulletin. I have asked the Bulletin for copies of this photograph and enclose one herewith. (I trust the sending of this photograph is permissible by the censor as I am sure you will be interested to see the result of your gift).

I with an explanation of your offer for the conveyance of school

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I then invited the members and officials who had attended and the two teachers to lunch in the Carnegie Hall. Mr Wooley kindly provided a very nice lunch, and this considerably oiled the wheels and put even Provost Murray in an excellent frame of mind. He was very genial on Wednesday.

We have had a very busy time between the various functions at Christmas and in connection with the school, but at the same time it has been all very pleasant.

O. K.
Alternative Draft.

Hugh A. Ross, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

Skibo School.

I refer to your letter to me of 1st April last and to my acknowledgment thereof dated 14th April.

I have now had an opportunity of discussing with Mrs Carnegie the question of the ground asked for by the Education Authority for an extension to the School playground. The ground asked for is within the policy wall of Skibo Castle and I am quite sure on further consideration of the matter both you and your Committee will realise to put a playground within the policy wall is not at all practicable.

Mrs Carnegie has been carefully considering the School building and she feels the present building in view of its age and general condition along with the site is not just as up-to-date as she would like and ~~she~~

ask the Educational Authority
Mrs Carnegie has therefore authorised me to state she ~~proposes to bear the cost herself of erecting a new~~
she may be permitted to erect
costing about £1000 -
two-teacher school at Clashmore and presenting it to the Education Authority. The School would be on a new site entirely apart from the present one and with adequate playground accommodation.

I shall be obliged by your placing Mrs Carnegie's offer before your Committee at the earliest possible moment, in view of the intended repairs to the old school, and advising me whether your Committee would be prepared to accept.

As before a condition would be laid down that the old school building and playground would revert to the Estate on the handing over of the new building and I feel sure this would be agreed to. Any other small points which might crop up would also be easily adjusted.