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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

6-4245

43037-1921

CARLISLE

File No.

820



file

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

NOV 29 1915
RECEIVED
SUPERIOR DEPT.
THE SECRETARY.

November 23, 1915.

FILED BY G. P. F.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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Memorandum for Inspector Fleming.

Referring to our conversation regarding the enrollment at the Carlisle school of Indian boys and girls, who are financially able of paying their own expenses of their education, I desire to confirm my verbal statements, and state that we have a number of such pupils, not only at Carlisle, but ~~all~~ ⁱⁿ other Indian schools, particularly at Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, and at the Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma.

I believe a careful investigation would disclose the fact that even in many of the smaller nonreservation schools, a number of pupils are being educated at Government expense whose parents are amply able to pay for their education. We also have in a great many of our schools, pupils whose parents live in small towns where they have public school facilities. I have refused to enroll such pupils at Carlisle when I had positive information of the fact that they were financially able to pay for their own education, or where I knew positively that they lived in towns where they had public school facilities. However, the superintendents of nonreservation schools are at a big disadvantage in making such decisions, for the reason that it is difficult for them to have first-hand information as to the financial condition of the students or their parents, or as to the school facilities in the neighborhoods in which they live.

The question of pupils spending money at Carlisle and at some of the other large nonreservation schools is becoming quite a serious matter. Many of our students want to spend entirely too much money. At Carlisle, it was, for a long time, the custom for boys and girls to be somewhat extravagant in their dress. They did not like to wear the regulation school uniform, but preferred expensive clothing, even going as far as wearing silks. Recently, I have directed that hereafter all students will be required to wear their school uniforms at the monthly socials. Last year, I required all the girls who went home at the close of school to wear their school uniforms. When the Indian reaches that stage in his economic condition where he can afford to spend several hundred dollars a year for incidental expenses while attending a Government school, it seems

to me that that Indian should be eliminated from our Government schools and give way to the poorer class, who are without proper school facilities or means to provide them.

This is an old question in the Indian Service, and most of us realize the importance of doing something, but somehow no definite system has ever been worked out and followed up, with the effect of remedying the matter. The responsibility rests largely on the superintendents in the field and others to whom the nonreservation school superintendent must look for recommendations as to the eligibility of applicants for enrollment in nonreservation schools. In my opinion, we are spending thousands of dollars every year in educating in our Government Indian Schools hundreds of children, who are not, strictly speaking, wards of the Government, and if they are semi-wards, they are more able to defray the expenses of their education than are thousands of white children in the country. I will gladly cooperate in any plan that may be decided upon for the correction of this unsatisfactory situation.

Very respectfully,

OHL:SR


Superintendent.

It is felt that Indian should be separated from our Government
and schools and give way to the better class, who are without
proper school facilities or means to provide them.

This is an old question in the Indian Service, and most
of us realize the importance of doing something, but somehow
no definite system has ever been worked out and followed up.
With the effect of keeping the matter. The responsibility
rests largely on the superintendent in the field and others
to whom the correspondence school superintendent must look
for recommendations as to the eligibility of students for
enrollment in correspondence schools. In my opinion, we are
expending thousands of dollars every year in educating in our
Government Indian schools hundreds of children, who are not
able to do so, and are more able to do so, but are not able to do so.
Education is the responsibility of those children in our country.
I will gladly cooperate in any way that may be decided upon
for the solution of this unsatisfactory situation.

Very respectfully,

[Faint signature]
Superintendent

To Secretary Lane