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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. OCT 26

1906

Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,  
Oct. 25, 1906.

Maj. W. A. Mercer,  
Supt.

Relative to proposed legislative  
for establishment of cavalry troop  
at Carlisle school.

*To Supt. 11/3/06*



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

CARLISLE, PA

Oct. 25, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am in receipt of Office letter (Education 50217, 85955/06), from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, inclosing a copy of Office report of the 16th instant to the Secretary of the Interior relative to plans for training a limited number of Indian boys for the cavalry arm of the U. S. Army at this school and securing an appropriation for the purpose. The Acting Commissioner refers to my estimate of the cost for the purchase of sixty horses at \$60 each and inquires whether the price indicated is intended to cover delivery at Carlisle.

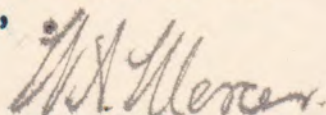
In reply I have to state that the proposed purchase of horses, in the event that cavalry horses are not to be provided by the War Department, contemplated securing western range horses from some of the Indian reservations. Such horses, it seems to me, need not cost to exceed \$50 each and this will allow \$10 per head for cost of shipment to Carlisle.

In this connection I desire to state, however, that the plan to secure these horses was purely in the interest of economy in the event that special appropriation were to be procured in connection with the regular appropriation for the conduct of this school, and

that the use of these range horses would necessarily result in the sacrifice of efficiency in a very marked degree. These horses are not only much smaller but they would have to be broken for use in the manner proposed and afterwards, when the boys came to enlist in the cavalry service they would still find it necessary to accustom themselves to the use of the regular cavalry horse. The cavalry horses are of course what we want and what we should have here in connection with the training proposed to be given.

I had thought that I had made it clear in my previous communications that the proposed issue of horses, forage, etc. by the War Department was greatly preferred instead of securing an appropriation for the purchase of the same as an item in the Indian appropriation bill. I had hoped that the latter method would be followed only as a last resort and after every resource to secure the approval of the War Department and the legislation necessary in connection therewith to have the horses, forage, and equipments issued to me by that Department had failed. It seems to me that the War Department should, primarily, be more interested in this project than any one else as it will be the direct and immediate beneficiary of the results of the training proposed to be given. If it be not too late I trust that your Office will give this matter further consideration and that every effort may yet be made to secure the needed legislation to enable the War Department to make the required issues of horses, forage, equipments, etc., to me.

Very respectfully,



Major 11th Cavalry, Supt.

Mr. Dattel

~~Mercer is right, that~~  
was the plan he &  
I had agreed upon.  
We had no idea of  
saddling Carlisle School,  
or the Indian appropriate  
ations, with this change.

T. H.