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DEPARTMENT
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INDIAN DIV.

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May 20/89

Danl. Darchester
Supt. of Indian Schools.

Report of his recent
visit to Carlisle
School & makes
certain recommendations

retd, by Secy Int-
who requests that the
privy vaults be cleaned
the beginning of summer
each year

Filed ^{one} ~~three~~

E & F. report.

Department of the Interior,

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Has the Commissioner
of Indian affairs
considered the re-
commendations of
Dr Berchester as to
Carlisle School.

1. Addition to library.
2. Better arrangements
3. Mining & Vault. to
be cleaned.

I wish this list to
be done at the beginning
of summer each year.
at least.

J. M. Noble.

July 2/89
20/7 Report. See

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN SCHOOLS,

Personal

Washington, D. C., May 20th, 1889.

To the Hon. Secretary
of the Interior.

Dear Sir

Herewith find a duplicate copy of my report, of my recent visit to the Carlisle Indian School. Another copy is in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Knowing that you propose visiting that school, in a day or two, I have thought you might like to read this report, possibly while on your way to it, and hence send it enclosed.

With high respects
Yours,

Daniel Doncherster
Supt. Ind. Schools.

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,
Office of Superintendent,

To the Secretary of the Interior,
Through
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Having been duly qualified, as Superintendent of Indian Schools, on the 1st day of May, at Washington, D. C., and having consulted with Mr. Belt, the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the absence of the Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Interior in New York, I left the city, the same evening, to visit and inspect the Indian Training-school, at Carlisle, Pa. My arrival, at the institution, at 8.45 the next morning, was an entire surprise to Capt. Pratt, the Superintendent. But I was cordially received, and every effort desirable was put forth to facilitate my investigations.

The business methods of the office were explained, the books were opened and briefly examined, plans of purchase, farm products, and other business phases were considered in as much detail as the time allotted for visitation would allow.

I remained on the premises until past eleven P.M. making

nearly fifteen hours of close attention to the institution.

The work of the school is divided into literary and industrial studies, the former occupying the forenoon, and the latter the afternoon, all the pupils participating in both.

All the school rooms were visited, from the lowest upwards, the work of the pupils on the blackboard, ^{the} slates, and ^{the} copy books were inspected, and questions were freely propounded to teachers and pupils, with gratifying results. These youth particularly excell in penmanship. Geography is also a favorite study, of which they evince good knowledge. Arithmetic is more difficult, but some of the classes show good knowledge of common and decimal fractions, and percentage. Of the English language, in its grammatical forms, they obtain considerable knowledge. They spell very well, and their reading exercises were good. As in all other schools, there are some very dull scholars, but the bright pupils are relatively as many as in the public schools of the States. The progress of the students far exceeded my expectations.

The order, and general morale of the school rooms was most excellent - even better than I have observed in most public schools. In this I was most agreeably disappointed.

This school is very fortunate in its list of teachers, among whom is an Apache young woman of about 20 years. I saw no reason

for special criticism upon any of them, but much to commend, especially their intelligence, tact, excellent discipline, and the ~~fine~~, kind, and cheerful spirit in which their work is conducted. The first efforts, with new pupils from the wilderness require great patience, in which these teachers evidently excell.

Nor did the industrial department impress me less favorably. In this most important necessity to the civilization of the Indian, the progress of the Indian pupils is remarkable. The tailoring, harness making, carriage making, farming, printing, &c., by the boys, and making of garments, mending, cooking, laundry work, &c., by the girls, showed that they are rapidly acquiring knowledge and facility in these useful industries.

Capt. Pratt showed me over the large farm of several hundred acres, of excellent land, the farm buildings, stock, &c. Large crops are annually raised. A splendid herd of cows deserves special mention, and also superior specimens of swine. The barns are unsuitable and poor. New ones should soon take their places; and, with increased facilities and attention, those beautiful and fertile acres can be made to contribute very much more than they now do to sustain the growing number of pupils yearly gathering in this institution. Over all these departments, Capt. Pratt presides with rare executive ability, evincing broad and well matured views in reference to his position, and wholly devoted, so far as I

could ascertain, to his work.

The dormitories, kitchen, laundry, hospital, bath rooms, and water closets, I found ample in size, clean, wholesome, and well ventilated; and two reading-rooms, one for each sex, contain a good variety of news-papers and magazines. The libraries should receive an addition of suitable volumes.

The pupils were viewed at their meals; and, in my mind, they were compared with boys and girls at many boarding-schools and church sociables among our white population, to the disadvantage of the latter in respect to order, quiet, and general demeanor.

Nor is the discipline of the school austere or severe, except in a few rare cases. The atmosphere of kindness and intelligent consideration prevails, and all seem sweetly and wisely drawn into habits, the good influence of which can never be wholly lost, even when they return to their wilderness homes.

Nearly 300 of the pupils, or about one half of the whole number, I found away from the institution, apprenticed for a few months, in excellent places, on farms, in shops, &c., according to a custom which has been followed with the older students, for several years. Reports are received from their employers every month, responding to stated inquiries from Capt. Pratt, and an agent is sent out to visit and look after them regularly. I ex-

amined these reports which were of the most gratifying character.

An important feature of the work of civilization here carried on is the Savings- bank account, opened in the office with each pupil. A scheme of wages has been adopted - not large amounts - which is put to the credit of each, and from which their incidental expenditures are prudently regulated, so as to teach them economy and self-reliance. About \$5,000 stands to the credit of the boys and about half as much to the girls.

The Indian boys are adepts at the fashionable game of baseball, and have a ground assigned to them. The sight of Indian girls at play, after supper, on the green grounds, their agility, happy spirit, kindly ways, &c., deeply impressed me, and I confess to a tinge of sadness as my thoughts ran forward in anticipation of the future before them, when they shall return to the less favorable circumstances of their far off homes, where they will be called to wrestle with stern practical problems. Will the ^{se} buds brought to Carlisle to bloom, be blasted when transplanted to their less congenial western soil? Or may the time be not far distant when, under a steadily improving administration of the Indian affairs of the country, those far off wilds shall be filled with the verdure and bloom of a better civilization? Will not the transference of these Indian pupils to these schools be one of the means,

for producing this desired result? There can be no doubt that better conserving influences will be needed on the reservations to strengthen the graduate pupils and hold them from lapsing into the blanket life?

The most scrutinizing inquiries failed to elicit any tendencies to gross immorality. Very seldom have cases of drunkenness occurred among the older boys under the seductions of the neighboring village. Few literary institutions have a better record. The structure of the buildings, the boys and girls having quarters separated by considerable space, and a wise administration of their relations and the high bearing of the employes, all combined, are promotive of pure morals and elevated sentiments.

The evening of the day at Carlisle was the occasion of the Monthly Entertainment, in their large hall, consisting of singing, declamations, and dialogues, by the Indian pupils. A few friends from the village of Carlisle, and Rev. Dr. Reed, Pres't of Dickinson College, were present, and were happily entertained for an hour and a half. The renderings were excellent, the singing very stirring, and in good taste. The Indian boys and girls showed themselves masters of the art of enacting, as well as gifted in music and oratory.

Rev. Dr. Reed and myself gave addresses at the close.

As my train left at about midnight, a two hours interview with the teachers was enjoyed after 9 o'clock, in which I made extended inquiries into the general regime of the institution, and thus the long day closed with the feeling that it was one of the best and most impressive days of my life.

Capt. Pratt has probably already called your attention to the large percentage of deaths among the Apache children brought from Florida and Alabama - about 20 per ct. - greatly in excess of any other class. I was unable to see any local cause for this. It is supposed to be due to constitutional taints peculiar to that tribe, inclining them to tuberculous diseases.

These suggestions by way of improvement I desire to present to the attention of the Commissioner:

1. An addition to the libraries
2. Better and larger barns
3. The privy vaults, now cleaned out once in two years, should be emptied at least once a year.

On some future occasion, when I can command more time for it, I hope to make further inquiries into the affairs of this most valuable institution.

In submitting this my first report of inspection,

I have the honor to be

Yours respectfully,

David Dorchester

Superintendent of Indian Schools.

Washington, D. C., May 20, 1889.

