22835

35-168

Indian Training School, Carlisle, Pa.

6/30

Capt R. H. Pratt, 10th Cav'y. Supt.

June 25th. 1891.

Rel. Wah-go-osh
a Mille Lac Indian;
returning letter from Henry
M. Rice.

1 enc

21320/91

File

A

Beat

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

June 25th, 1891.

The Honorable,

Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of June 24th, marked "A, 21320, enclosing letter from Hon. Henry M. Rice, of the Chippewa Commission, in reference to a Mille Lac Indian by name of Wah-go-osh, who seems to be a mechanical genius in the tinsmithing line, I have to respectfully advise you that while we could give to Wah-go-osh the training he would require, the suggestion of Mr. Rice is by far the best for him. A few months in a regular tin shop, in one of the towns or cities near the reservation would do more for him than we could do at Carlisle, because of the greater variety of work to be done, and I would urge by all means that authority be granted the agent to place him under the training proposed. However, if your judgment indicates that it is better to send him to Carlisle, we are ready to receive him and do what we can for him. Mr. Rice's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.

R. H. Pratt
Capt 10th Cavy Supt

35-141
6/17

Henry M. Rice, Chairman
Chief of Ojibway Indians
Leech Lake Agency, Minn.
Rec'd to Secretary of Interior
Indian Office
Transmitted
Copy to Gen. Agent Indian Office
Copy to Chief Clerk

Beat

Sir:

Has sight of notwithstanding Lamoreau two "illegitimate" I
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Copy to Gen. Agent

CHIPPEWA COMMISSION,
St.Paul, June 11, 1891.

Hon. T. J. Morgan,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir,-

The first of this year I found a Mille Lac Indian by the name of "Wah-goosh"who is a genius. Without ever having visited a tin shop,he learned the tinners trade; his only tools were such as he made out of old iron and a wooden mallet. I employed him as tin smith and to do general work in farming and helping the removed Indians. I also furnished him with tools and material for his shop. He has made for his people

43 large pails
25 tea pots
42 large pans
32 small "
78 cups
8 kettles from 15 to 18 inches high and from 10 to 20 inches in diameter. He has repaired(and in some cases put in bottoms)85 large kettles,besides mending pails,pans,cups &c.as wanted. Heretofore if a tin vessel got leaky,it was thrown away and a new one purchased of a trader at a large price,or dispensed with.

If this Indian could have an experience of from two to four weeks in a tin shop he would learn how to use tools and handle stock economically,which would not cost more than $30 or $40--perhaps less.

I respectfully call your personal attention to this and suggest the Agent at White Earth Agency be authorized to arrange with a tinner at Detroit, 22 Miles distant, to give "Wah-goosh" lessons from two to four weeks. Making and repairing tin vessels is an important industry and on the reservation one, and probably two such tin smiths can support themselves, as well as greatly benefit the Indians, aside from the teachings they will dissiminate.

One of the Gull Lake Chippewas is now, among other accomplishments, being taught the trade at the Carlisle Indian School.

Respectfully

Henry M. Rice