

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
Rec'd MAR 25

1892

11154

Indian Training School, Carlisle, Pa

Capt R. H. Pratt, 10<sup>th</sup> Cav'y Supt

March 24, 1892

Suggestions re as to  
School Band for Exposition  
at Chicago.

File

Ans. 30/92

2/14/92

M

Some performance and drill our united commands as one whole.  
We could contrive to be encamped together several  
force from Carlisle. We shall add many years to the growth of  
come armed and uniformed, as I propose to arm and uniform our  
as as to increase our command to from 500 to 600 and let all

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,

*[Signature]*

Capt. 10th Cav'y, Pa.

2nd Lt.



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Indian Industrial School,  
Carlisle, Pa.

March 24th, 1892.

The Honorable,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to yours of March 18th, marked "M, 4711", in relation to a Band for the Exposition at Chicago, I have to respectfully advise you that to increase our band to 45 pieces will require the sending in of 24 pupils from other schools or that many players from our former pupils returned to Agencies. Twenty five new instruments will be necessary. The list price of these, of the same quality and make as we now have, is \$1470.00, but we can get them for \$1000.00, by a little management of makers. The added instruments ought to be uniform with ours, which are the very best and silver plated.

I can see how we may save considerable in other expenses, and if the players are landed here without invading the \$2500 we may pull through on that by making use of Carlisle school supplies.

Our school uniform, touched up with red trimmings,



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Comr. 2.

is quite handsome and we may dispense with the purchase of uniforms. These, of course, would not be needed until near the time of going to Chicago, and I could supply them from school stock.

I would suggest that the best musicians from other schools be transferred here, and, if practicable, all should have been under training, at least, two years.

It is of the utmost importance that the band be brought together at once, and that there be the greatest industry of instruction. We do not want to merely demonstrate that Indians can blow a horn. We want to establish that they can make good music, and this will be done if matters are pushed.

In my judgment, we can make as much of an impression upon the country by taking part in the parade at Chicago as we can in the permanent display in the buildings throughout the Exposition; but the display in the parade may be the greatest possible advertisement for the after display in the Exposition.

I have had a plan which it has been my intention to carry out with reference to the parade, but which I have desired, on account of the experience I had in the Bi-Centennial



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to keep to myself. The parade managers, and all those hoping to make money by the crowds who gather, will catch on to every item that offers exceptional features, for advertising purposes, and thus expose our plans and let other than Government schools step in and compete.

It seems to me that Carlisle, Haskell and Genoa, - possibly Fort Totten - possibly Chilocco - might combine and present a feature that would arrest attention equal to any of the parade.

From what I hear, there is quite an intention to make capital on the soldier in the Army. Already orders are issued taking two companies of Indian Cavalry to Fort Sheridan. This is in preparation and there will be no lack of constant attracting of public attention to that special feature between this and October; and we may go to Chicago, with four or five or six hundred young Indian men, headed by our band, and compel favorable interest and attention to our Training school work.

I could take from 200 to 250 from Carlisle.

My plan is to have every student armed with some implement of industry or carrying a slate and a book. So far as possible, I would have workmen dressed to suit their trades



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blacksmiths as blacksmiths, carpenters as carpenters, etc. They should march in as much open order as the space allowed would permit, and, by constant change of formation during the march, attract and rivet attention of on-lookers.

If we can double or treble the number I can take from Carlisle, by adding from the schools neighboring Chicago, so as to increase our command to from 500 to 600 and let all come armed and uniformed, as I propose to arm and uniform our force from Carlisle, we shall add many years to the growth of public sentiment in favor of Indian Industrial School work.

We could contrive to be encamped together several days beforehand and drill our united commands as one whole.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,



Capt. 10th Cav'y.,

Supt.