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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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1896

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Aug. 13. 1896.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Gives information, as
requested by Office
Letter marked "Education
29895", and contrasts
in regard to lighting
with oil and
electricity.

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In reply to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

31150

Carlisle, Pa., August 13th 1896.

To the Honorable ,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 7th marked "Education", 29895, directing that I give information and contrasts in regard to lighting by oil and electricity , I have to respectfully advise you that from the beginning of the school, in the Fall of 1879, until 1887 we used oil exclusively. In 1887 the town of Carlisle was first lighted by electricity and I then for protection placed two arc lamps on the school grounds to burn all night, the cost to be paid from my Charity Fund. In the Fall of 1888 from the same fund, I placed incandescent electric lights in the school-building and an arc lamp in the gymnasium. In the first quarter of 1890 Department authorized the payment of \$500.00 for the current, for the lamps then in use as above . By your letter of Nov. 29th 1893 the Department authorized the payment of \$1935. per year, for current only, provided my Charity Fund paid for the installation of incandescent lights through out all the buildings. During the period between '87 and '90 (three years) the cost of oil, lamps and fixtures was \$450.44 per annum and the cost of labor was about

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\$300.00 making the cost for the use of oil \$750.44 per year. In addition to this during this period of three years I paid an average of \$355.00 for electric current, lamps, etc., making the total annual expense for lighting during this period over \$1100.00

During the three years following, that is from July '90 to July '93 the expense for oil, lamps, fixtures, etc., amounted to \$648.61 per year and the expense for care of same was about \$400.00 making \$1048.21 per year. The \$500. for current added to \$1048.21 made the total cost of lighting about \$1550.00 per year.

The expense of installation of lights throughout all the buildings was \$1765.00 We estimated at the time and had bids for the necessary boilers, engines and dynamos and became satisfied that it would cost no less than \$10,000.00 for the entire plant to get the same service.. Taking into account the expense of necessary skilled management and the additional help to run the lamps all night and the consumption of coal, as well as the wear and depreciation of the machinery, I realized the current from the town plant would be very much less expensive and far more satisfactory, aside from the relief from care. Since 1893 our total expense for lighting on the electric plan has been an average of \$2223.50 per year. This includes an added outside arc lamp, making three outside at a cost of \$92.00 per year each, for all night service, two arc lamps in the dining room, two in the assembly hall, a second one in the gymnasium and 760-10 and 16 C.P. incandescent lamps equal to

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560-16C.P. lamps and all repairs and replacements.

The light obtained from electricity is more than double, in quantity, that which we had from oil and in quality incomparably greater. The use of sufficient oil lamps to get the dim light with which we could get along produced heat and vitiated air in all our gatherings seriously detrimental to the health of pupils and teachers. Electricity adds scarcely anything to the temperature of the room and has no bad effect upon the vital qualities of the air and gives a steady and uniform light, lessening the eye troubles from which Indians suffer so much.

Our case is unique and not likely to have an influence upon more than one or two other schools, because of our method of supply.

If the quality of light be taken into account our lighting by electricity costs proportionately no more than the lighting with oil, and we had the best oil, delivered at the school for six cents to ten cents per gallon.

Very respectfully,



Capt. 10th Cav'y., U. S. A.

Supt.