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12021 Indian Affairs
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Boise, Idaho,
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McBunnell, Insp.

Rel. to necessity of
keeping records of
returned students
from Carlisle and
other schools.

Rice

CHIEF CLERK
MAR 7 1898
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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Department of the Interior,
Mar. 12 1898

Respectfully referred to the
Commissioner of Indian
Affairs.

Edward Anderson

Chief Clerk.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
WASHINGTON,

Boise, Idaho, March 1st, 1898.

Hon. Secretary Interior,
Washington, D. C.,

Sir:-

I believe that a thorough system ^{of} espionage should be established, not only upon the Indian Industrial Schools at Carlisle and Hampton, but also on all schools on reservations, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the work performed as to the future elevation of the aborigines.

I have made some reports concerning return students from Carlisle which reflect very seriously upon the advisability of educating Indians there. At the suggestion of Cap't Pratt I have been making some inquiries as to the effectiveness of education at the Government schools on the Reservations. I have not yet carried my inquiries in that direction far enough to satisfy myself sufficiently to make a report thereon. I am inclined to believe, however, that at Fort Hall Reservation, which I have recently visited, the indians leave the school to go back to their tepees, paint their faces, wear blankets and live as their ancestors before them were accustomed to live.

I suggest that each Agency be furnished blanks for the purpose of keeping records from which annual reports may be made to the Department, showing the status of all the young people at the

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respective agencies who have had training either at their own school, or at some of the distant Industrial Schools. I believe that we should be in a position to determine accurately what system of education gives the best results and which schools are most to be commended. Reference to the reports of the Department shows that it does not cost so much at the present writing to take a young man or woman to Carlisle and educate them there as it does to educate them at their home schools, and I believe that it will be shown that where young men and young women can be kept away from their tribe entirely until they are fully developed men and women, that they will be better even though they return to their own people later, than to allow them to come back while they are still boys and girls.

Sometime since I received a letter requesting me to make reports upon returned students. This is very difficult for me to do. It may be done much better by the Agent on Reservations and where no Agent is located, by the Sup't of the School.

The reports attainable at Hampton or Carlisle, in my judgment, are not reliable, as they are furnished by the Supervisors to the Superintendent and from my personal knowledge of at least two of the reservations they are not familiar at the school with the present status of those who were formerly their pupils. If the Agents were required to keep a record, these records might be verified by the Inspectors and the information thus attained would

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be a valuable guide to the Department. A record of the progress of, not only pupils of Carlisle and Hampton, but of those educated at the agencies should be kept and reports made either annually or semi-annually.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. McConnell

(dictated)