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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Re: MAR 10

1899

857/18

Nathaniel Mc Kay.

City, Mar. 7, 1899.

Rel. to his recommenda-
tion for the increase of
the salary of Miss R. E.
Wilson, a teacher at
Carlisle School.

Yours

ANSWERED BY COMMISSIONER
MARCH 10, 1899.

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[Red scribble]

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Comm.-Gen. Jones 2.

a to transfer to some other school.

Miss Wilson's friends do not desire her sent to the West, but would be glad if you would endeavor to conciliate Major Pratt and request him to retain her at his school for the present.

Enclosed find a copy of his letter to Mr. Sherman. Miss Wilson is a lady of the highest character and her relations with her immediate superior officers is the friendliest.

Asking for her your kindest consideration, I subscribe myself,

Very sincerely,

Your friend,

Nathaniel McKay

1 enclosure.

COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Indian School Service,
Office of Superintendent.

Carlisle, Pa., December 8th, 1898.

Hon. James S. Sherman,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Sherman:

I have your letter of the 6th, asking me to increase the pay of Miss R.E. Wilson. The salary list is fixed for the current year ending the 30th of June next.

There are several reasons why I ought not to increase the salary in this place. The position is for a second assistant matron, not matron, or even first assistant matron. When created it was for one of our Indian girls, and becoming vacant at a time when I did not have just the proper Indian girl to put into it, I asked for a Civil Service appointment, and Miss Wilson was selected and accepted at the salary named. It is as much as I think I ought to pay for the place, and left to myself I can easily get a much more satisfactory help for it than Miss Wilson. Miss Wilson, like all employes coming from Washington, intrigues and relies upon outside pressure more than her service to get herself advanced. I have had quite a number of letters from officials and others of influence in her behalf. She is not willing to let my judgment in regard to her value prevail. On a former occasion I submitted to her that her dissatisfaction could perhaps be satisfied by a transfer/ and that I would be very glad.

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to have her apply. This she is not willing to do, but tries to compel me to increase the expense of the school to oblige her.

You have been misled in regard to her working hours. Three mornings of the week she does begin duty shortly after the rising bell at 5:45. The other mornings nothing is required of her before her breakfast at 7 o'clock. She has a very considerable number of hours off duty, both forenoons and afternoons. She has to go the rounds at 9 o'clock in the evening. She is the embodiment of faithfulness and renders willing service, but lacks in a marked degree power to control, and is entirely incapable of rising to the necessities of an emergency. She does not seem to grasp what is implied by responsibility, and allows herself to be outgeneraled by capricious girls, thus almost destroying the power of control vested in her. She has gained some since coming here, but not sufficient to lead me to expect that she will ever be what I ought to have in her position. Under these circumstances, I, of course, do not feel friendly to an increase of pay, greatly as I should enjoy meeting your desires in any matter.

Very sincerely yours,

R. H. PRATT.

Dictated Me