

25117

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec MAY 29

1899

25117

Int Dept.

92³⁷/₃₁ May 27/99

Has modified
auth. for certain
repairs at Carlisle
school, and calls
attention to language
of Supt. Pratt in
his letter requesting
the same

To Pratt June 3/99.

pleasing

It is the disposition of the Department to favor and encour-
age the Carlisle School in every proper way, and, as stated in my
letter of the 21st ultimo, I have conferred in the request and
taken to advantage and make the purchase by contract.
more than two weeks, no reason could exist why this could not be
the fact that the objection would not become available until
the 1st ultimo, you did not even say there was an emergency; and
rather immediate purchase necessary. As remarked in my letter
the existence of such an emergency as would admit of no delay and
amount exceeding \$500, and could only be made in case of a great
emergency.

copy of this letter, and also of my letter of the 21st ultimo.
Please be good enough to furnish the Department with a
copy of his letter, and also of my letter of the 21st ultimo.
and delay, and must be permitted to discharge them without pre-
the Secretary of the Interior is also charged with responsibilities
considerations and wishes. Sir, while he has his duties to perform,
and for action in relation thereto I give great weight to his rec-
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amount exceeding \$500, and could only be made in case of a great
emergency.

L. R. Pratt

E. E. M.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON, May 27, 1899.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

sir:

In compliance with your recommendation of the 17th instant, I have to-day modified the authority granted on the 21st ultimo for the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, Pennsylvania, to publish advertisements for bids and to let contracts for certain materials, and to expend certain sums of money in the open market for materials and in the employment of labor after the first of July, 1899, for repairs at that place.

I cannot let the matter pass, however, without some notice of the language employed by the Superintendent in his letter to you of the 2nd instant in reference to the first action of the Department. In this letter the Superintendent says:

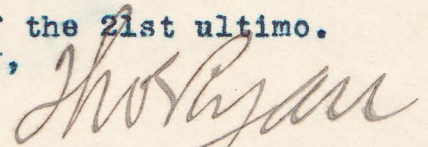
"My letter to you was only preliminary and made to come within \$3,000, with the expectation that authority to proceed at once and pay for afterwards, would be granted. Your letter shows that the Interior Department does not sympathize with my plan to push the work in order to have the use of the buildings at the opening of the school in September, as I desire, and forces me to practically remain idle in these plans until after the first of July, except to advertise and contract for supplies needed. Since matters have taken this turn, it is of course the part of wisdom to make one advertisement do for the whole."

It is true that the Department did not sympathize with the Superintendent's plan to push the work as proposed in his letters of request, but that was only because his plan did not seem to be lawful, and was not due to any want of interest in the school or of sympathy in any proper plan for the promotion of its efficiency and welfare. He proposed to contract an indebtedness before the appropriation became available. Moreover, as stated in my letter of the 21st ultimo, the request was for authority to expend an amount exceeding \$500, and could only be made in open market upon the existence of such an exigency as would admit of no delay and render immediate purchase necessary. As remarked in my letter of the 21st ultimo, you did not even say there was an emergency, and the fact that the appropriation would not become available under more than two months, no reason could exist why time could not be taken to advertise and make the purchases by contract.

It is the disposition of the Department to foster and encourage the Carlisle School in every proper way, and, as stated in my letter of the 21st ultimo, I have confidence in the judgment and integrity of the Superintendent, and in all matters coming before me for action in relation thereto I give great weight to his recommendations and wishes. But, while he has his duties to perform, the Secretary of the Interior is also charged with responsibilities and duties, and must be permitted to discharge them without having his motives impugned or reflected upon.

Please be good enough to furnish the Superintendent with a copy of this letter, and also of my letter of the 21st ultimo.

Very respectfully,



Acting Secretary.

2730, Ind. Div., '99.
1 encl.
D.B.P.

COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1899.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, recommending that authority be granted for the Superintendent of the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa., to expend a sum not exceeding \$2,996.50 after July 1st, next, in the open market purchase of materials and the employment of labor to make certain improvements and extensions to the school plant, and to make payment therefor from the appropriation for the fiscal year 1900.

The estimated cost of the materials enumerated in your letter is \$2,369. Before authority can be granted for an open market purchase exceeding \$500 in amount, it must be shown that such an emergency exists as to make it necessary to purchase in open market, rather than by contract after advertisement for competitive bids. You do not say in express terms that there is such an emergency in this case, and the facts stated by you I do not think show that such an emergency exists, because more than two months must elapse before the appropriation from which payment is to be made will become available, and within that time, of course, advertisements can be published inviting competitive bids, and contracts entered into with the lowest bidders for delivery to be made as soon as the appropriation becomes available.

One of the strong reasons you urge for the purchase of this material and employment of labor in open market is that the Superintendent desires, as far as possible, to do the work with school mechanics, hiring only such additional help as may be necessary, such as stone masons, brick layers, plasterers and added help for carpenter, and that this would be more economical than to have the improvements made by contract, and would also give the pupils the benefit of the instruction and experience in the work; and that you have confidence in the ability and the sound judgment of the Superintendent, and feel that the interests of the service will not suffer in his hands.

Of course, like yourself, I have confidence in the judgment and integrity of the Superintendent of the school, and I can see the advantage in allowing him to do the work with his employes and pupils and such hired assistance as may be necessary. But I do not see how the purchase of the materials can be made in open market without the existence of such an emergency as is contemplated by law, nor why the purchase in open market would be of any greater instructive value to the pupils or more economical than by contract.

I am constrained, therefore, to the belief that the materials specified must be purchased by contract, and that the Superinten-

dent ought to be authorized to employ the labor and do the work as he requests.

Authority is therefore hereby granted for the Superintendent of the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa., to publish an advertisement of the proper form for three consecutive insertions, covering 21 days, in the weekly edition of the "Herald," of Carlisle, Pa., and Tuesdays and Fridays for 3 weeks in the daily edition of the "Commercial Gazette," of Pittsburg Pa., and by means of posters to be conspicuously posted in a number of public places in the vicinity of the school and elsewhere, inviting proposals for furnishing and delivering at the school, after June 30th, 189, the sand, lime, brick, lumber, window and door frames, iron girders and columns, and fixtures enumerated in your letter, and to enter into contract therefor with the lowest bidder or bidders at the estimated cost of \$2,369, subject to the approval of the Department. Authority is also granted for the Superintendent to employ, after the labor June 30th, next, required to lay stone and brick to an amount not exceeding \$487.50, and to purchase materials and employ labor not otherwise enumerated, after June 30th, next, to an amount not exceeding \$140.

The papers submitted with your letter are herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

2746, Ind.Div., '99.
M.E.W.

(Signed:)

Thos. Ryan,
Acting Secretary.