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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Aug. 3rd 1900.

Pratt, R. H.,

Major 10th Cav'y, Supt.

requests to purchase
Kutz farm.

Zinc.

Incl to Secty. Aug. 9/11/1900
to Supt. Aug. 7/3/1900

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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

CARLISLE, PA., August 2, 1900.

To The Honorable,
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In our appropriation for this year is a clause authorizing the purchase of land, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. This school has been handicapped throughout its whole history for the want of convenient and sufficient farm land. In the very outset I found that people who owned land about the Old Barracks were in the habit of receiving exorbitant rental for such land as the military required outside the small amount belonging to the Barracks. The War Department rented from the Parkers and Alexanders for many years and paid \$20.00 per acre per annum. These two tracts were the most convenient for them and would have been for us. The Government land was only 27 acres, mostly covered with buildings. Explaining these conditions to the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Schurz, when the school was established in 1879, and that I could get farm land from one to three miles distant at about one half that price, he thought it best to rent the Parker farm at their price of \$1200.00 per annum. After two years at this rental I dropped it and went three miles away and rented a farm of nearly 200 acres at \$600.00 per annum. A short time after this, with the help of friends, I bought a farm of 157 acres from Mr. Hocker, three miles distant which has belonged to our Charity fund and been rented by the Government at \$600.00 per annum since 1883.

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Soon after this the Parkers got into straits and were forced to sell the farm of 109 acres adjoining the school which we had formerly rented. Congress gave the money and we purchased that farm April 15th, 1887, for \$18000.00 which was \$165.00 per acre.

The farm at Middlesex has been a source of great inconvenience because of the distance to send students. From time to time for years I have endeavored to negotiate the purchase of a farm near the school. The exorbitant prices asked has made it impossible to present a case for consideration until now. For several years I have known that the farm of C. C. Kutz, which joins our Parker farm at one corner and is suitable and convenient for our use, was heavily encumbered and on the strength of this I asked for the clause in our appropriation for the purchase of land. After the bill passed I opened negotiations with Mr. Kutz and his first demand was \$200.00 per acre. After consideration and consulting those who know the values, I offered \$115.00 per acre. He then offered to let me have the farm comprising 175 acres for \$25000.00. It cost him \$26,000.00. I then named \$20,000.00 as the extreme limit we would pay. After further delay he offered to split the difference and make it \$22,500.00. I informed him that I had named the extreme price and that if he could not bring himself to accept the \$20,000.00 I should consider the negotiations off. He now agrees to let us have the farm for that amount, and I herewith enclose a brief of the title together with a plan of the farm, showing its contiguous relations to the school and request your Authority to purchase the same at \$20,000.00.

I can say that it is the best and cleanest farm in the vicinity

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near enough to be available for our purpose, also that it is better land than the Parker farm for which we paid \$165.00 per acre. It is better than the farms joining on the east, northeast and south of it, none of which can be bought for near as low a price per acre, so that the Government assumes no material risk and it is likely to be always worth its purchase price. On the side closest to our farm, along the Letort stream is 16 acres of excellent pasture. There is a good orchard and every foot of the balance is available for the plow. Having this farm we shall end the rental of the Hocker farm and the Board of Charity Trustees will sell that and the proceeds go into the Charity funds for use of the school.

This purchase from our appropriation will not prevent our carrying 1,000 or more children the current year.

Mr. Kutz is involved and his necessities urgent, else I should not have been able to purchase at all. I therefore trust that the authority to make the purchase will be hastened.

From a thorough knowledge of the situation because of having worked on it for twenty years I feel ^{sure} that at no time in the near future is it likely we can make so satisfactory purchase.

Very respectfully,


Major 10th Cavalry, Supt.

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