

OFFICE OF

Indian Affairs

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. June 23 1902.

Pratt, R. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.

*Reporting Mr. Thos. D. Collins
unqualified for position of ten-
ner at this school.*

To Secy July 1902

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, pa., June 23, 1902.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Mr. Thomas D. Collins of Washington, D. C. has reported here as tinner for this school to replace Mr. Sprow. On talking with Mr. Collins I find that while he is a competent tinner in the manufacture of tinware and able to take care of all jobs of roofing, spouting, ranges, fire-place heaters, furnaces, etc. as these things are done in cities, he is not qualified to cut his own patterns, nor is he qualified as a plumber or in drainage. Neither the Civil Service Commission nor the Indian Office made any inquiries as to what was necessary in the way of a tinner for this school. The tinner here is an instructor and should not only be qualified to make tinware, but able to cut all patterns for the same and to teach the boys both branches. Our tinner has to look after our plumbing, water closets, bath-tubs, etc. The divisions of labor in a city have made each of these features a specialty and hence plumbing is one thing, tinsmithing another, and pattern cutting still another. In the smaller towns the old fashioned system of instruction still prevails, and a good tinner in a country town has a knowledge of all these several occupations.

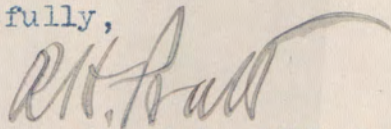
Mr. Collins has been put to unnecessary expense and no little annoyance by the course of the Civil Service Commission in this matter. As they are culpable in having led him into this position, they

-2- Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

should in my judgment reimburse him for any inconvenience, loss of time, and outlay he has been to in consequence. If he began as tinner here I should be compelled at the very outset to report against him because he is not qualified to fill all the requirements of the position and take care of our work, and consequently not qualified to instruct. I believe him to be a first class tinner as that term is understood in the cities.

If I were compelled to divide up the work and have a pattern cutter and a plumber in addition to a tinner and then have our copper work done elsewhere, it would not be worth while to have the position of tinner continued.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated.