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INDIAN AFFAIRS. MAR 3 1905

Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.,
Dec. 9, 1904.

W.A. Mercer,
Capt. 7th Cav., Supt.

Recommends establishment of
department of horticulture at
Carlisle Indian School.

To Supt. 2/3/05
Transd. G. July 20/05
To Secy. Mar. 1/1905
To Supt. March 10, 1905.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA. December 9, 1904.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

After very careful consideration and deliberation I have arrived at the conclusion that it would be advisable and desirable to establish a department of horticulture at this school. If conducted in accordance with plans outlined below the maintenance of such a department will be quite inexpensive and will form what I regard as a very important adjunct to the industrial training and instruction of pupils at this school.

Aside from the advantage gained by the increased attention to the trees and shrubs on the grounds and the beautifying of the latter, I regard it as very important that all the boys and girls should receive some practical instruction in horticulture and gardening. This is at present impracticable with the school farms situated as they are at an inconvenient distance from the school.

The first requisite to the establishment and successful carrying on of such department will of course be a suitable greenhouse. It is not the purpose, however, to have this at all extensive or elaborate. Careful estimate for materials for a greenhouse 20x100 feet in size has been made and is submitted as follows:

1000 feet German Siding,	\$35.00
60 Oak Posts 4"x6"x7', @ 40¢,	24.00
180 Pieces of Cypress, 2"x1 1/2"x14', @ 40¢,	72.00
7 Pieces of Cypress 2"x6"x16', @ 96¢,	6.72
4 Sash, 3-glass, 16x18", @ 75¢/	3.00
17 Sash, 4-glass, 16x18", @ \$1.00,	17.00
54 Boxes of glass, 16x18", double thick, B quality, @ \$3.75,	202.50
Ventilators,	22.45
1 Boiler for heating greenhouse,	<u>100.00</u>
Total,	\$482.67

In connection with the construction and maintenance of this proposed greenhouse, I have to state that in addition to its instructional value to the school it is the purpose to make practical use of it so that it will contribute materially towards the support and maintenance of the school. Green vegetables can no doubt be grown in the hothouse during the winter months in quantity to contribute very materially to the school mess; besides, early vegetable plants such as cabbage, tomato, etc., for the truck gardens on the farms can be started and raised in the hothouse. At present there are no facilities at the school for raising such plants.

It is the intention the coming season to greatly increase the area devoted to the cultivation of garden truck and to give this feature more attention than has been the case in the past. No reason is seen why there should not be raised at this school all the vegetables that are required for the school mess. In the past the quantity

so produced has been very limited and it is felt that if the supply can be increased to meet the needs of the school, greater variety for the pupils' mess will be secured and their health thereby promoted.

At the same time the care and attention required for the proper growth of such garden truck will secure additional training and instruction for our boys. To secure proper supervision of this gardening work there should be employed someone who has a proper knowledge of the work and who can devote the larger portion of his time thereto during the summer season. The farmer and assistant farmer at this school have their time fully engaged during the summer months in looking after the proper cultivation of the two school farms.

It is proposed to have the employee engaged to take charge of the horticultural work and the greenhouse supervise and have immediate charge of the truck gardening during the proper season. By this arrangement it will be seen that the maintenance of the horticultural department will be inexpensive and it is felt that a great saving to the school will result by the raising of an increased supply of garden truck and vegetables.

Mr. H. W. Leaman, whose employment as an irregular laborer to attend to the pruning of the trees on the school grounds was authorized sometime ago, is a practical horticulturist and truck gardener, and it is believed that it would be very desirable, if it can be accomplished, to secure his services as a regular employee to perform the duties above outlined. He is willing to undertake the work, if authorized, at a salary of \$60.00 per month or \$720 per annum. I deem it most desirable that his employment should be

authorized if it can be arranged.

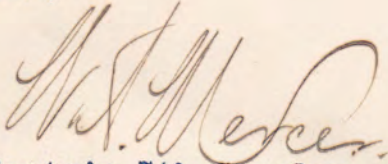
In this connection I have to ask whether it would be permissible to employ an additional farmer at this school under the provision contained in the Indian Appropriation Act for the present fiscal year (Public No. 125, page 4) appropriating the sum of \$75,000 to enable the Department to employ practical farmers and stockmen in addition to those now employed, etc. If so, it is suggested that Mr. Leaman might be employed under said provision.

Should the position of horticulturist be authorized at this school I have to ask to be advised whether a special examination could be given to Mr. Leaman or whether there is a list of eligibles for such positions in the Indian school service.

Pending the receipt of your reply as to the employment of Mr. Leaman or some other competent man to perform the duties above outlined I will make no definite recommendation in this particular.

It is, however, respectfully recommended that authority be granted for the purchase in open market of the materials specified above, required for the construction of a greenhouse, and that the establishment of a horticultural department at this school be authorized.

Very respectfully,


Captain 7th Cavalry,

Superintendent.