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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAY 13

1905

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Capt. H. A. Mercer,

Carlisle School,

May 11-1905.

Rel. to making an
addition to the
school chapel,

To Supt. } May 13/1905
 " Secy. }
 " Supt. May 17/1905

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SPECIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.
CARLISLE, PA.

May 11, 1905.

To the Honorable,

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

Sir:

Referring to my letter dated the 3d instant requesting authority to expend \$4254.59 in the erection of an addition to the school chapel, and to informal conference several days ago by the Assistant Superintendent of this school, Mr. Wise, with your office on the subject, I have to state that the thing desired to be accomplished is to have the contemplated improvement paid for wholly out of the appropriation for the present fiscal year, of which there will be an ample balance remaining.

As authority cannot be granted for purchases in open market to exceed \$3000 under any circumstances, the itemized estimate submitted in my aforesaid letter, it seems, must be reduced, and this, I think, can be done without difficulty, if necessary. The items for 3360 feet of hemlock boards at \$24.00, - - \$80.64, and for 5000 feet of maple flooring at \$37.50, - - \$187.50, can be entirely omitted as we have old material and material in stock that can be used for this purpose.

The following items which are mainly or wholly for labor and

not for material should also of course be eliminated from consideration so far as open market purchase is concerned:

Stone work, - - - - -	-\$117.60
Laying brick, - - - - -	416.50
Carpenter work, - - - - -	350.00
Stairs, - - - - -	50.00

The item for painting and glass also includes of course labor for painting and \$60 may be deducted therefrom for labor, leaving \$40 for material. Making this reduction and omitting the other items above referred to will reduce the estimate to \$2992.35.

As to the purchase of the materials required for this improvement I think it would be more advantageous, if the necessary authority can be procured, to purchase in open market. As to the labor items I am not entirely clear as to whether it will be necessary to enter into contracts to do the stone work, brick laying, carpenter work, etc., prior to June 30th in order to use the appropriation for 1905 in the payment. If so, I would like to have instructions at the earliest possible moment in order that the necessary contracts may be procured in compliance with the rules.

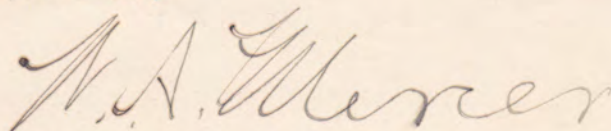
The entire matter is submitted to you with the request that you adopt such course as may to you seem best under the circumstances, having regard for the very limited time remaining within which contracts may be completed and approved. As there are so many different items, the amount of work entailed in getting out the proposals and making the contracts will be considerable and will make it unusually difficult for us here in view of the extra work entailed by letting our annual contracts for supplies. If the contract

method is deemed more desirable, however, it is suggested as a compromise that several of the larger items, for example for furnishing labor and material for brick work, lumber, etc., might be done under contract and the items for supplies of lesser amount purchased in open market. As above stated, while I think it would be preferable, if it can be done, to grant authority for the purchase of material, etc., for an aggregate not exceeding \$3000 in open market, yet if the office thinks best I have no objection to the contract method and will do the best I can to handle it in that manner.

If the contract method is to be followed the items for labor and the other items specially mentioned above should not be omitted from the authority requested, and if authority for necessary labor cannot be granted to be paid out of the appropriation for the present fiscal year after July 1st, then I have to request that I be authorized to enter into contracts for the work in the amounts not exceeding those above set forth.

Whatever is done, I would urge that action be taken at the earliest possible moment and that I be given the necessary instructions.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. A. Mercer". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized "M" and "A" at the beginning.

Captain 7th Cavalry,

Superintendent.