

OFFICE OF
42753 Indian Affairs
Rec. JUN 5
1905

82
160

Indian School Carlisle, Pa.,
June 3, 1905.

Captain W.A. Mercer,
Supt.

Replies to letter asking opinion as to advisability of continuing position of tinner.

1 m

To Supt. 6/7/05

FILE

E

JA
File

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA.

JRW
June 3, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to your Office letter, "Education", dated the 26th ult., requesting my opinion as to the advisability of continuing the position of tinner at this school and as to the value of teaching the trade of tinning to our pupils, I would respectfully invite your attention to my letter of February 8, 1905, copy of which is herewith inclosed, which I think covers the ground fully. Under the circumstances I do not believe it would be advisable to discontinue the position of tinner here, and that the welfare of the school and the Government would not be thereby subserved.

Very respectfully,

W. A. Mercer

Captain 7th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-AES

42753

Indian Office,

Incl. No. /

1905

C O P Y

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA. February 8, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of letter (Education 5515--1905) dated the 28th ultimo, from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to an increase of salary of \$60 per annum for the tinsmith, harness maker and painter at this school. An expression of my views upon the question of the retention of the position of tinsmith at this school is requested and I am asked whether it is my judgment that the teaching of Indian boys the trade of tinsmith will be of value to them when they return to their homes. It is stated that the question of increasing the salaries of the aforesaid employees will be given consideration upon receipt of my answer.

In reply I would respectfully state that this matter has been carefully considered and the entire subject has been canvassed from the view point of the school's best interests and its economical management. I realize of course that the trade of tinsmith is no longer a desirable one--at least does not open up to young men the opportunities for employment that other trades do. There is, however, a limited field for employment in this trade and as it is comparatively simple and easily learned I feel that a reasonable amount of instruction in the tinshop here is warranted.

The main consideration, however, in the employment of a tinsmith here, is the fact that practically all of our buildings have tin roofs and that the work of keeping the same in repair, together with eave

troughing and other tin work, keeps a tinsmith employed out-of-doors during at least half the year. It is believed that if such repair work and the new work required to be done from time to time, were to be accomplished by employing irregular labor the cost of the same per annum would amount to at least as much, and perhaps more than the salary of the tinsmith. Conducted as it may be, and should be to a large extent at a plant of this kind, with blacksmithing and plumbing, I think it would be desirable and advisable in every way to continue this branch of instruction in a limited way--especially in view of the fact that we now have a tinshop with full equipment, the conduct of which entails but little expense aside from the tinner's salary.

Considering the facts as above set forth, I am of the opinion that the tinsmith should be retained at this school, and as the salary now received by him is very small for a good mechanic, it is hoped that the increase recommended in my letter of the 19th ultimo will be authorized; also a similar increase in the salaries of harnessmaker and painter.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) W.A. Mercer

Captain 7th Cavalry,
Superintendent.