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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
52448 Rec. JUL 8 1905

W. A. Ince
Carlisle School

July 6

In regard to decision
of Comptroller rel. to
use of funds for new
hospital and snakes
certain statements

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To Supt. 7/12/05

[Red initials]

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File.
SPECIAL

Major of Georgia
Superintendent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PENNA.

J. R. Wise
July 6, 1905.

Major C. F. Larrabee,
Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Larrabee:

Your letter of the 1st instant inclosing copy of the Comptroller's decision dated June 13, 1905, respecting the use of funds for the erection of the new hospital at this school is at hand. While we had of course seen the brief newspaper reports regarding the Comptroller's decision, we had not, previous to the receipt of your letter, had any official information respecting the matter.

I note the Commissioner's suggestion that by using student labor in the erection of the building and paying for the materials, only, out of the \$10,000 we would be able to get more out of the sum named than was at first supposed. On this point I have to say that we will be glad indeed to do all we can to put the project through along the lines suggested, though I can foresee a number of obstacles and some difficulties to overcome. In the first place, we have already planned for about all the work our boys can do here at the school in the way of making repairs and improvements during the summer months and, in fact, until late in the fall. The addition to the chapel or school building which is to be done largely with student labor, and authority for which has been granted by the Office, is itself quite a large undertaking. Besides this it is proposed

to erect a new lumber house, an addition to one of the cottages, and a pavilion for tuberculosis patients. There is also an unusual amount of pipe and steam fitting mapped out, and in addition there are the usual number of repairs which must always be made at a plant of this size during the summer season.

Again, no building work of any consequence has been done at this school by student labor for a number of years, and in fact there has been no training at all given for several years in masonry, bricklaying or plastering, which, in view of the contemplated construction of the hospital out of brick or similar material, will constitute a principal part of the mechanical work. In carpentry a number of our boys are quite skilful, and this branch of the work, it is thought, could be managed without much difficulty, and in fact, it could be handled without any trouble were it not for the other contemplated improvements above mentioned.

The only way in which the masonry, bricklaying and plastering portions of the work could be accomplished by student labor would be, in my opinion, by authorizing the establishment of a department covering these trades as an additional industry at this school, and then securing the appointment of a competent man to the position in the usual manner. The addition of these trades to our industrial department here would, in any event, be highly desirable, in my judgment, and I believe the same should be authorized. If the element of time within which the hospital should be completed be not taken into account it is thought that our boys could be trained to do the

work required under the supervision of a competent mechanic as stated. It is thought possible that the building could be completed in that manner by June 30th next, or within the present fiscal year, though obviously there are elements of doubt entering into the matter which render it impossible to make any definite promises.

In discussing the question with experienced mechanics the opinion has been expressed, however, that it would be very doubtful whether our boys with their limited training could be taught to do pressed brick work satisfactorily and without entailing great waste and hence extra expense. Common brick, it is thought, they could be taught to lay with fairly satisfactory results, but I do not think it would be at all advisable to think of erecting the building with common brick.

The cement blocks, we are informed, our boys could learn to set without very great difficulty, and this form of material, it is believed, would be no more expensive, and perhaps less so, than pressed brick. Should the erection of the building with student labor be determined upon I would therefore deem it best in every way to use the cement block in the construction.

As to whether or not the materials for the building can be purchased for the \$10,000, the office will be better able to form a judgment than we are here, although figures bearing in a general way upon the matter were submitted with my letter of May 12, 1905. It is suggested that the bills or contracts in connection with the erection of the hospital at Haskell would afford much needful information on

this point. However, if the office should decide to have the school go ahead with the work I will, if directed to do so, secure estimates in connection with the cost of the materials.

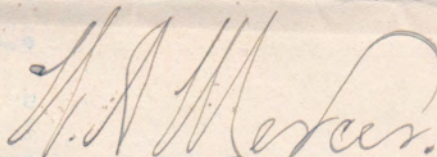
The plumbing work in connection with the building would have to be done by outside labor as the amount of work already laid out and contemplated for our engineer, with the help of such boys as have had training in pipe fitting, will more than engage all the spare time for ten or twelve months to come. The work of tinning and painting can be handled without any difficulty.

As stated at the outset, we will be willing to undertake to erect the hospital by student labor, should the office so direct, and you may assure the Commissioner that we will do our very best to carry the project through to a satisfactory completion. I have deemed it best, however, to frankly outline and set forth some of the obstacles and difficulties to be overcome. Should the erection of the building be determined upon I beg leave to suggest that not a moment's time should be lost in beginning the work as this is the season of the year when the same could be prosecuted with the best results and it would be highly desirable to have the building erected and under roof by the time cold weather sets in, if possible. To do this it will be evident that no time must be lost.

I am very anxious to have this hospital erected in order to relieve the crowded conditions existing during the fall and winter months in our boys' dormitories, as it is a part of my plan to use the old hospital, when vacated, for dormitory purposes. My plans

in connection with the inauguration of special training in military work at this school are also affected by the changes involved, and, taking all things together, you can readily see that I am no less anxious than the Commissioner is to have the hospital project carried through, and no more ready than he to give up.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. A. Mercer".

Major of Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-S