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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. SEP 28

1905

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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,  
Sept. 25, 1905.

Major. W. A. Mercer,  
Supt.

Reports on letter of Alex Solomon  
requesting the discharge of his  
son who left without permission.

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To Carlisle  
" Solomon

10/2/05  
" "

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PENNA.

Sept. 25, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of letter dated the 21st instant from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs (Education 75106-1905), inclosing a letter dated the 14th instant from Alex Solomon, of Hogsburg, N.Y., relative to the discharge of his son from this school. The Acting Commissioner requests that report and recommendation in the case be made and states that Mr. Solomon has been informed that it is doubtful whether I will be willing to consent to his son's release until he has been returned to the school, in view of the fact that his running away was a gross breach of discipline.

In reply I have to say that the statement of facts as submitted in the letter of Mr. Solomon is substantially correct. Last June this young man made an urgent appeal from his country home near Philadelphia, where he was staying with Sister Catherine, to be discharged from the school, giving as reasons that he desired to be free to use his money as he saw fit, and that he could prosecute his studies and meet his expenses to better advantage if free from the school. Reply was made that we could not see that it would be of any advantage to him to be free from the school, but he was promised that the matter of his release would be favorably considered later

in the summer. At the same time some money was sent to him from his bank account here at the school in compliance with his urgent request that it was needed in connection with commencement exercises at the school which he was attending. Subsequently it was ascertained through inquiries of our boys' field agent that this money was not used for the purposes claimed, but was used improperly and perhaps to procure liquor and for amusement purposes. Several weeks later, in a fit of anger as he claims, he left the home of Sister Catherine and his whereabouts were unknown until some weeks ago when it was reported that he had returned to his home on the St. Regis reservation, N.Y.

This young man is of exceptional ability and had, up to the past spring and summer, made a good record both here at the school and with Sister Catherine under the outing.

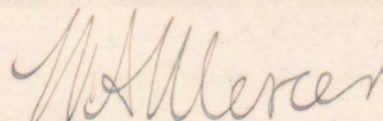
As an example to the rest of the school and a means of discipline with our large boys, I could not see my way clear to make an exception in this case and grant him an honorable discharge, unless he were to return to his country place as he left it and they were willing to receive him.

I can only add in conclusion that this young man is one in whom the school had placed great confidence and from whom much was expected,

and we were both surprised and disappointed to learn of his conduct as above set forth. Under the circumstances, however, and as the matter now stands, I cannot see my way clear to grant him an honorable discharge.

The letter of Alex Solomon is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

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

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-S

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Indian Office,

75106

Incl. No.

1905

Hon. Wm. Hitchcock

Sept. 14, 1905

Washington  
D.C.

Esteemed Sir

I am writing to this Dept. fully believing that justice can be done concerning my son Michael H. Solomon who has been enrolled on the list of the Carlisle Indian school for the past three years. My ~~son~~ boy has been away from

from Carlisle for two years and  
 all this time remained at Cornell  
 under Mother Catharine and  
 enjoyed the privileges of the  
 Carlisle sitting system. Last spring  
 my boy made an application for  
 an honorable discharge from the  
~~Scott~~ school and through Father  
 Gauss of Carlisle succeeded in having  
 a liberal concessions granted him  
 from the Supt Capt Mercer.  
 But as I understand the privileges  
 accorded him were ignored and  
 in a fit of mental anguish  
 he suddenly left his country home  
 and returned to Hogansburgh

I acknowledge the wrong at-  
 tributed to the action of Michd.  
 but when the circumstances  
 of his leaving is considered  
 I think some learning ought  
 to be shown him especially  
 as he was promised his discharge  
 this fall from Capt Mercer and  
 another thing he was too far  
 advanced to return to Carlisle  
 to resume the Academi course  
 there he having graduated from  
 the college preparatory course  
 of Saint Joseph College of Phila  
 My son is repentant for his action  
 and I am anxious to preserve  
 his name and honor hence

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I supplicate this Dept to instruct  
 the Supt of Carlisle Indian School to grant  
 him his discharge and not leave  
 his name expunged from the  
 list of Carlisle Indian School  
 in discharge. Please give me  
 a favourable reply if possible  
 and I will see that that  
 Michael abides by whatever  
 arrangements can be made  
 for his own good.

I remain

Your Honorable Servant

Alex Solomon ex chief  
 of St Regis Indians

File with 77549