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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Nov. 8, 1905.

J.R. Wise,
Acting Supt.

States that Henry Vertreace,
appointee as blacksmith, is a
Negro and illiterate. Recommends
that he be transferred to some
other position.

Ans. 11/14/05.

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

Nov. 8, 1905.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

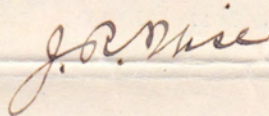
Sir:

Referring to the recent appointment of Mr. Henry Vertreace, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, you are advised that Mr. Vertreace reported here and entered upon duty November 1st. By direction of the Superintendent, Major Mercer, who is temporarily absent, I have to inform you that Mr. Vertreace is a Negro and that he is totally illiterate, being unable to read or write or even to sign his own name. While the fact of his being a Negro is necessarily a material disadvantage to him and no doubt always would be, owing to the natural antipathy of the Indian to the Negro, which is shared by our students here, this fact would not necessarily prevent his meeting the requirements of the position. At a school of this character where training and instruction are the main essentials in the qualifications of a mechanic it is, therefore, almost impossible for a mechanic who cannot read and write to perform the duties and meet the requirements fully and satisfactorily. It will be one of his regular duties to make daily reports, keep records of stock, tools and material, and also at times to receive instructions in writing.

Under the circumstances it is deemed advisable and for the best interests of the service that Mr. Vertreace be transferred to

some other position in the service as blacksmith where he can better meet the requirements. He is no doubt a good mechanic and we feel confident that at some western agency, or possibly small school, he would prove very valuable as a blacksmith, horse shoer, etc.

Very respectfully,



Acting Superintendent.

JRW-S