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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. JAN 23

1906

2817-06

Indian Industrial School,  
CARLISLE, PA.

JAN 20 1906

W. A. Mercer

Major 11th Cav. Supt.

Reports on complaint  
of Augustine Mendoza  
against James R.  
Wheelock.

1 enc.

To Supt. 1/26/06

" Wheelock 79 "

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

Jan. 20, 1906.

The Honorable,

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter (Education 2817-1905), dated the 16th instant, referring to me for report and recommendation a communication from Augustine Mendoza complaining of the fraudulent practice of James R. Wheelock on the Indian boys composing his band.

Reporting thereon I have to say that four of the members of said band came to this school the latter part of October or first of November last, I having furnished them transportation with the understanding that when able they would reimburse me. Two of them, George Gardner and John Harvey, are here at present; another, Jose Cigalo, has secured employment at Steelton, Pa., and I arranged for the enlistment of the fourth, Manuel Bender, in the 13th Cavalry Band, stationed at Ft. Myer, Va. It is suggested, here, that if desired arrangements could doubtless be made to have Manuel Bender call at your office for an interview in regard to the matter.

John Harvey and George Gardner give the names of the following Indian boys who were members of "Wheelock's United States Indian Band":

John Harvey, (Assinniboine), Havre, Mont.  
George Gardner, (Chippewa), Belcourt, N.D.  
Jose Cigalo, (Pueblo?)  
c Manuel Bender (Washoe), Carson City, Nev.  
Miguel Jurado, New Mexico.  
c Chas. Carson, (Blackfeet) Montana.  
Victor Gomez, (Pueblo), New Mexico.

Cornelius Wheelock, (Oneida), Oneida, Wis. (Brother of Jas.)  
Jerome Henry (Menominee), Tomah, Wis.  
Joe Bultz, Poplar, Mont.  
B. Spencer Williams, (A Carlisle graduate)  
Wm. Arquette, Seattle, Wash.  
James Arquette, "  
C Simeon George, (Onondaga) Syracuse, N.Y.  
Hiram Green " "  
David Hill " "  
C David Abram (Chippewa)  
Casper Peters, New York.  
C Willard Gansworth (Tuscarora), Lewiston, N.Y.  
C George Willard (Alaskan)  
C Chamie Prickett (Menominee)  
George Bain (Sioux), Sisseton, S.D.  
C Malphus Cloud (Chippewa)  
Dan Howard (Sioux) Ft. Yates, N.D.  
Demascio Garcia (Pueblo), Albuquerque, N.M.  
C Monroe Coulon, (Oneida) Oneida, Wis.  
C Phineas Wheelock " "  
Nathan Elm " "  
Andrew Elm " "  
Ephriam Hernandez  
Augustine Mendoza (Pueblo)  
C LeRoy Kennedy, Buffalo, N.Y.  
C Alonzo Spieche (Apache) Arizona  
C Oliver Exendine (Delaware) Oklahoma.

John Harvey states that the said band was organized and started out from Chicago the first part of June, 1905; that nearly all of the members joined the band at Chicago under contracts which had previously been entered into, mostly by correspondence; that the band was then conducted by Dennison and James Wheelock, brothers, but that Dennison Wheelock withdrew about the first week in August when the band was filling an engagement at Willow Grove Park near Philadelphia. He also states that his contract provided for \$20 per week and transportation--he to pay his own hotel and other expenses, and that his pay was later increased to \$23 per week; that the contract also provided for a "hold back" of \$25.00; that on August 12th, one week

after Dennison Wheelock withdrew, a statement was given him by James showing that there was then due him (Harvey) \$62.92 in addition to the hold back of \$25.00; and that this statement bears the notation: "Due under D. Wheelock \$42.92: Due under J.R.W. \$20.00". Harvey further states that after receiving the above mentioned statement he received only a few small payments but did not keep an accurate account of same; that part of the time after August 12th Mr. Wheelock paid the board of the band boys for the reason that owing to the fact that they had not received their salaries they had no money with which to pay their own board; that when asked for money he invariably had an excuse to offer for not granting the request, such as that he was obliged to make a payment on some instruments or pay some other expenses; and that he left the boys in New York the latter part of October and did not return but wrote him (Harvey) a letter from Philadelphia stating that he had no money and advising the boys to find employment wherever they could.

The statements made by George Gardner are practically the same as those of Harvey, except that his contract was for \$18.00 per week and transportation, and when he received a statement on August 12th there was about \$11.00 still due him; that he only received \$5.00 after that date; but that between that date and the time the band broke up the latter part of October there were three weeks that he did not play in the band. These young men also state that during the two weeks' engagement at Willow Grove Park, Philadelphia, ten white musicians were hired to increase the size of the band and were paid

\$35.00 and \$45.00 per week.

I deem it proper to remark here that the name under which Mr. Wheelock advertised his band, viz.: "Wheelock's United States Indian Band," together with the fact that he was at one time leader of the band at this school, caused a great many people in this section of the country to believe that it was the Carlisle Indian School Band that he was conducting.

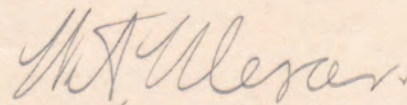
Of course none of the Carlisle boys, who at the time were enrolled at the school, were with Wheelock's band. He attempted to get two or three of them and the promises he made them caused dissatisfaction when I refused to let them leave school to go with the band. The result was that one or two deserted. I predicted the outcome and advised some ex-students not to go, but they did not listen to my advice and suffered the consequence. Those names listed herein with the letter "C" marked opposite are ex- Carlisle students over whom I had no control. Neither Mr. Wheelock nor any other unauthorized person should be permitted to lead the public to think that he is conducting an Indian band under Government or Indian school auspices, as Carlisle and Haskell are often credited with the organization, and as the discipline is very lax and the boys' conduct such as we would be ashamed to have in our school band, we feel that it is an injury to the schools and the Government Indian school service to permit bands organized as his was and advertised as his was to go about the country and if it can be prevented it should be.

I understand that James R. Wheelock is now in Philadelphia, and the last information received of him was to the effect that he was

working at the printer's trade there. Dennison Wheelock, I understand, is at his home at Oneida, Wis.

In view of the experience of so many Indian musicians with these men the past summer, it would seem rather doubtful whether they would be able to raise another band for the coming season, but if such is their intention, and anything can be done to prevent them from getting the Indian boys, I feel that it should be done, and to that end it might be advisable to make the facts relative to their past record better known at the Indian agencies and schools throughout the country.

Very respectfully,

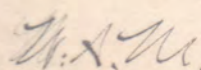


Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

AES

John Harvey and George Gardner also stated that they were informed that the receipts from one two-weeks engagement at Cincinnati amounted to \$2100.00; that the proceeds from the engagement at Willow Grove Park, Philadelphia, were \$3600 for the two weeks; and that they heard that while in New York James Wheelock purchased expensive rings for himself and wife.



For

Commrs. eye  
on his return,  
C. H.

Files.

We should look  
into this at once  
& get after Wheelock  
if it is true, & in con. Feb



address  
Bring to attention of  
Commissioner  
now. 342 Oak St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Jan. 6, 1906.

"Indian Commissioner".

Dear Sir:

This letter I  
send to you, for the purpose of  
informing you, what an  
"Indian Man" did to a band  
of "Indian Boys" secured from  
the different "Indian Schools"  
and "Reservations" of the U. S.  
He intends to secure boys  
again "next summer" from  
ones, who do not, know him

their salaries they never received, for he put them off, saying he did not make any money, only expenses. They played all the first class parks and theatres and he played at "New York City" and left the boys saying, "He would return that next day." He did not, and the boys were left there hundreds of miles from their home, some of them could speak no english, without place to sleep or without food, some of them cried like children and were fairly starved some with no food for 3 days.

and do the same trick over again. Now to proceed with my story of his meanness. You may, with your kindness of heart towards the Indian race, notify the "Officers" of the different "Indian Schools" and they would not permit the boys to leave, with out bonds of security for their safe return. "Mr. James Riley Wheelock" of "Carlisle" Pa. is the "Indian Man" who took 38 Indian boys on the road with his band and he had them 5 months, only, paying their board and railroad fares.

(L+.)  
Through acts of kindness,  
many people sent some of  
the boys back to "Carlisle"  
school where they would be  
in shelter at least. Some  
of them scantily dressed,  
and no shoes, hardly at  
all. I myself helped them  
to buy food and the boy  
here! at my home, I got  
him to come here, "my hus-  
band," paying his fare for his  
home was in Mexico, Pueblo  
Tribe, and speaks hardly  
any english. He lost over 200  
dollars and even his instru-  
ments. for it, was given to  
him in part payment. J. R.  
Wheelock did not pay for it.

(5.)  
and the "Co." demanded its  
return. The boys, who par-  
ents did not send for them  
are in N. Y. Jersey City and  
Phila. getting along and  
managing to exist. Now,  
a man like him who takes  
his own kind of people out  
on the road and leaves them  
in such a mean, cruel  
manner, should not be  
allowed to take another band  
on the road and make a  
small fortune out of un-  
fortunate children of the  
"red race." He did not give  
the boys a chance to ~~steal~~ <sup>issue</sup>  
him because he put

I beg to remain.

Respectfully Yours,

Augustine Mendez.

of Pueblo Tribe  
New Mexico.

P.S.

If you doubt, this state of  
affairs you can address  
the Carlisle School.

There are many of the  
stranded boys there who  
also lost all their money  
and faced hard times.  
when he deserted them in  
New York.

(6.)  
the money in banks" in  
his "wife's" name, and in  
that way the boys could  
not sue him in the  
"United States Courts." I would  
be thankful to you, if  
you in your kindness  
of heart, send a letter to  
the "Schools" and inform  
its Officers of this man's  
Rascality and mean  
character and stop him  
from securing boys again  
for he will only do the  
same trick over. Thank-  
ing you for your kind-  
ness.

2817

Indian Office.

1906

P.S.

Incl. No. X

J. Mrs. Le Roy W. Kennedy,  
 writes this letter, as the  
 boy, was treated in such  
 a cruel manner by J. R.  
 Wheelock, speaks very little  
 English and it is an  
 hard effort for him to  
 write.

address

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Incl. No. 1

342 Oak St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Hope you will notify the  
 Schools.