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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.	MAR 22 1906

Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Jan. 23, 1906.

Major W.A. Mercer,
Supt.

Incloses lease of 21 acres near
school grounds belonging to Annie
T. and Laura E. Alexander, and re-
requests approval of same.

4 inclosures.

To Supt. 2/3/06.
 " " 3/14/06
 Encl. Copy 3/19 "
 To Secy. 3/24/06
 " Audr. "
 " Supt. "
 Trans 7 "
 Filed in Portfolio 11. p 11.

H.

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

Jan. 23, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

There is a tract of land containing 21 acres adjoining the grounds of this school on the south, and it being a large open field is most convenient for purposes of drill and an athletic ground for the smaller boys and more or less of a play ground for the girls. The girls are now necessarily restricted to a very small section of our grounds and they need more room. They practically have no play-ground whatever, and the condition for small boys is the same. The past six months these grounds have been used to great advantage by the children of the school and I have paid for them at the rate of \$100 per quarter for the past two quarters from the athletic fund under the terms of the lease herewith which I secured after considerable trouble with a view to presenting the question to you of buying the land for an addition to the school. It would make a splendid large drill ground for military maneuvers, mounted or on foot, and as an addition to the present school plant would be most valuable, whether it is continued as such or turned back to the War Department for military purposes. The price asked, \$600 per acre, is such that my predecessor did not deem it advisable to recommend its purchase, although he personally told me that the school should have acquired the land years ago and has needed, and does need, it very much. I have found from my own experience that such is the case,

and also that the price, \$600 per acre, is not exorbitant, considered in connection with the price of other real estate, as land in the vicinity is selling at the rate of \$1000 per acre, and unquestionably this land will increase in value rapidly, so that as a business proposition it will never be a mistake to pay the price asked for it.

The question of purchase I desire to take up with you a little later, unless you feel, after the receipt of this, that you are willing to approve the necessary steps to be taken at once to that end, and so advise me. I now recommend that the inclosed lease, for which I ask your approval, be acted upon at the earliest practicable date, as the boys' athletic fund is no longer able to pay the rent, and I should like an approved lease as a basis for payment from the school appropriation.

It will be seen by the lease that I have an option on the land at the present rate of rental for ten years, and also the privilege to buy at the rate of \$600 per acre for the whole lot up to August 3, 1906.

The land is good agricultural land and one good crop of hay and in addition splendid pasturage could be obtained from it if desired to be used for this purpose at any time.

Very respectfully,



Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.