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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. FEB 16

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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,  
Feb. 15, 1906.

Major W.A. Mercer,  
Supt.-

States that Henry Vertreace,  
instructor in blacksmithing, on  
account of his inability to read  
or write, is unable to perform  
the duties of the position  
satisfactorily.

To Supt. 2/10/06

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE  
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL  
CARLISLE, PENNA.Feb. 15, 1906. *J.R.W.*

The Honorable,

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

Sir:

Referring to correspondence heretofore had with you in regard to our instructor in blacksmithing, Mr. Henry Vertreace, I have to state, in compliance with your informal request during my recent visit at the Indian Office, that Mr. Vertreace is very seriously handicapped in his work as an instructor in blacksmithing by his inability to read and write. All his requests for materials, which are made almost daily, as well as his reports and quarterly statements of stock on hand, are prepared by one of his boys and are signed by him by stamp. His inability to read such reports renders comment as to their real value unnecessary. His work is frequently interfered with in other ways in connection with his daily records, time reports and recording progress of apprentices, by his lack of educational qualifications. As a mechanic his work is satisfactory and as heretofore stated he would no doubt make a very desirable employee for an agency or a small school where no educational qualification is required of such employee. He is sober, industrious, of good habits, and is a man of excellent character so far as we are able to ascertain.

Very respectfully,

*W. G. Thompson*  
Major 11th Cavalry,

Jerry says  
the vacancy  
for Vertreese

occurs Apr 27/<sub>06</sub>

and that they  
will take him  
for that date