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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,  
March 21, 1906.

Major W.A. Mercer,  
Supt.

Reports relative to complaint  
of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Co.  
that the telegraphic business of  
the school is not equally divided  
between the two companies.

*To Ribble Mar. 27/1906*

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

*J. W. M.*  
March 21, 1906.

The Honorable,

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Office letter (Finance 21830/1906) dated the 17th instant, calling for report and recommendation relative to the complaint of the Superintendent of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Co., that I favor the Western Union Telegraph Company to the practical exclusion of his company in the telegraphic patronage of the school.

In reply I have to say that we have always endeavored to divide the telegraphic business of the school as equally as practicable between the two companies, but this is not always possible owing to the fact that we often have occasion to send messages to points reached only by the Western Union lines. This is especially true of many far western points. It is perhaps true that messages are frequently sent by the Western Union line which might be sent over the Postal line for the reason that it is not certainly known, without inquiry, that the latter company can deliver the messages. It is also sometimes necessary to send telegrams on Sunday, in which case they are given to the manager of the Western Union, who has a line to his residence and can take messages over the telephone at any time, while the office of the Postal Telegraph-Cable Co. is closed on Sunday.

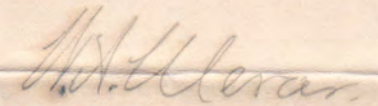
Sometime ago the local manager of the Postal Telegraph Co.

wrote me asking if I could not give him more of the school business and I replied that I would endeavor, as far as possible, to have a reasonable share of the telegraphic business given to him. Our records show that since January 1st last 28 messages at the Government rate have been sent from this school over the Western Union line and 16 over the Postal, while since the first of March, owing to our efforts to give the Postal more business, 9 telegrams have been sent over that line and but 5 over the Western Union.

The above has reference only to Government messages and not to personal and other messages sent at the commercial rate. Which of course I do not attempt to control. The latter, perhaps, exceed in the aggregate those sent at the Government rate.

Owing to the conditions above set forth it is very difficult to make an equal division of the telegraphic business between the two companies, but I shall endeavor to do so as far as practicable.

Very respectfully,



Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

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