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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian Industrial School,
CARLISLE, PA.

AUG 27 1906

Maj. W. A. Mercer,
Supt.

Submits report of
condition of school
plant, and makes
estimate of funds
required for fiscal
year 1908.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Carlisle, Pa.,

August 21, 1906.

J. W. M.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Complying with instructions contained in your Office Circular letter No. 139, Education, dated July 25, 1906, I have the honor to submit the following report as to the condition of this school plant and estimate of funds required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908:-

The general condition of the plant at the present time is, on the whole, very good. Though many of the buildings and some of the equipment are old and rather poorly adapted to their purpose, they have all been kept in as good repair as practicable, while the efficiency, comfort and convenience of several portions of the plant have been materially increased by suitable repairs, improvements and additions.

Figures relating to enrollment are as follows:

1. Present enrollment, - - - - - 848
2. Highest number enrolled during year ended
June 30, 1906, - - - - - 1025
3. Total enrollment during year ended June
30, 1906, - - - - - 1110
4. Average attendance for 10 months, September
to June, inclusive, - - - - - 981

The present enrollment of 848 is of course at about the lowest for the year and will be materially increased during the next few weeks by the arrival of new students before school reopens the first week in September. It is my purpose to maintain the enrollment at about 1000 during the school session of the present fiscal year. The average for the whole year will be slightly below that number. The present equipment of the plant and dormitory room will not, in my opinion, warrant the maintenance of a much larger enrollment than 1000 at any one time, due regard being had for the health and welfare of the pupils. I do not deem it best to keep too large a percentage of pupils out in the country under the outing system during the winter months, and about 750 is all that can be comfortably kept here at the school. The completion of the new hospital, provision for the erection of which was made by Congress during its last session, will result in giving us, in a measure at least, the additional dormitory space needed by utilizing the old hospital for that purpose.

The sewerage system, so far as accomplishing the work required of it is concerned, is quite satisfactory. This fact is attested by the freedom of pupils and employees from illness of any sort that might result from improper sewage disposal. The system, however, is in almost constant need of repairs and attention to keep it in working order. The sewage is emptied into the creek on the school farm a little over one-fourth mile northeast from the school grounds.

The water supply is obtained by contract at $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per thousand gallons from the Carlisle Gas & Water Co, the annual cost being about \$725. The water, which is the same as that supplied to the city of Carlisle, and is in fact delivered through the same system of pipes, is of fairly good quality, but the supply is at times inadequate, the pressure being insufficient to produce a flow of water on the upper floors of some of the buildings. Necessarily the fire protection from this source is not all that it should be, but it is supplemented by a large hand-power fire engine and hose cart and hose, besides a number of chemical fire extinguishers distributed through the several buildings.

Heat for warming the several buildings is supplied by steam from a central plant consisting of four 150-horsepower high pressure boilers. Steam for cooking in the school kitchen and for heating water in kitchen, dining room and for bathing purposes in the dormitories is also supplied from this central plant. As to its efficiency the heating plant is very satisfactory. It does the work required of it but it can hardly be economical. The pipes are all cased with wood and are laid right in the ground, whereas they should be cased with mineral wool and laid in conduits, both to prevent loss from radiation and to facilitate repairs. Heating facilities in some of the buildings have been added to and improved during the last year. Still more remains to be done,--the materials therefor being on hand,--to render all the buildings and dormitories healthful and comfortable. It is expected that this work will be

completed during the coming fall and winter.

The several buildings are lighted by the equivalent of a total of about 1100 16-c.p. incandescent electric lights, the current for which is supplied by the Carlisle Gas & Water Company. In addition there are three 2000 c.p. arc lights to light the grounds, the current for which is supplied by the same company. Current (electric) with which to operate our laundry and wood shop machinery and our printing press is supplied by the Valley Traction Co.

This school should by all means own and operate its own plant for supplying electric light and power current. While I shall not at this time request a specific appropriation for the purpose, I am confident that the required outlay for the installation of such a plant would not only be a step in the direction of economical administration, but would result in more efficient service.

The provisions for ventilating the three dormitories and the school building proper are antiquated and unsatisfactory. This statement is fully supported by the report of Supervisor Charles to your Office dated March 11, 1905. However, as he made no specific recommendations or filed no definite plans for the installation of new systems, I am without figures or data needed to show the probable cost of the work. It can probably be defrayed out of the regular appropriation for the school, as estimated for below.

The erection of the hospital and physician's cottage, provision for both of which was made in the appropriation for the current fiscal year, will supply the immediate necessities of the plant in

the way of building equipment. Additional quarters for employees, especially such as are adapted to housekeeping, will no doubt be very much needed in the near future. A number of our employees now reside in Carlisle where they either rent or own their homes. Whenever one of these employees is replaced his successor will no doubt require quarters on the grounds. Besides, several of the employees with families now on the grounds desire to keep house but the facilities in the way of quarters are lacking to enable them to do so. Funds with which to erect at least two new cottages at a total cost of not exceeding \$5000 should be provided, and I so recommend.

We are recently in receipt of information that after the 28th instant, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the railroad rate law, all the railroads west of Chicago and St. Louis will charge full rates for transportation on account of this school. Heretofore the school has only paid half rates in said territory. The rates east of Chicago and St. Louis were increased to the full fare on January first last, and the appropriation for the current fiscal year was increased to meet the additional cost of transportation on this account. It is estimated that the cost of transporting pupils to and from Carlisle on account of the full rates now to be charged on western lines will be increased about \$5000. I recommend the addition of this amount to item of \$158,000 in the current appropriation embracing transportation expenses, thus making this item \$163,000.

RECAPITULATION.

For support of school, transportation of pupils to and from said school, and for general repairs and improvements,	\$163,000.00
For additional salary of Superintendent in charge,	1,000.00
For two new cottages for employees,	5,000.00

Total, - - - - -	\$169,000.00

The appropriation for the current fiscal year is: For support of school, transportation, general repairs, etc., \$158,000; for additional salary of superintendent, \$1,000; for new hospital, \$10,000 (and \$10,000 reappropriated for the same purpose); for cottage for physician, \$2500---total, \$171,500.

Very respectfully,

N. A. Mercer.
Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.