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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. SEP 11
1906

Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Sept. 10, 1906.

Maj.W.A.Mercer,
Supt.

Reports on letter of R.E. Congdon, Gowanda, N.Y. relative to Jesse Pierce, deserter from Carlisle school.

File

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File

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MAJOR W. A. MERCER, 11TH CAVALRY
SUPERINTENDENT

JOHN R. WISE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

W. G. THOMPSON
SUPERINTENDENT OF INDSUTRIES

A. KENSLER
QUARTERMASTER

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

CARLISLE, PA

J.R.W.

Sept. 10, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter (Education 75965-1906) dated the 4th instant inclosing a communication from Robert E. Congdon of Gowanda, N.Y., dated the 30th ultimo, with reference to the release of Jesse Pierce as a student at this school.

Reporting on this case, as directed, I have to state that this young man was enrolled here as a student from the Seneca tribe, New York, in September, 1905, and that he deserted from the school on April 23, 1906.

Early in the summer he wrote to the school making a plea to be released, saying that he was at home helping his mother. On July 11th we replied saying that so long as he was assisting his mother, as indicated, and contributed to her support he would be pleasing the school authorities here. As to discharging him from the school and making him free as he expressed it, he was told that this could not be done for the time being and that we must claim the right to return him at any time if we chose to do so. In conclusion he was told that it might be, after thinking the matter over carefully, that he would conclude to come back to the school of his own accord,

just as he left it, and avail himself of the opportunity which Carlisle afforded to secure an education and training.

As a matter of discipline and in order to prevent too frequent cases of desertion we have deemed it advisable several times to send representatives of the school to New York to return such deserters. It was felt that it would have a wholesome effect to let this young man know that this right might be asserted.

If, however, his services are so greatly needed at home and he is so averse to returning to Carlisle, I shall discharge him unless you give directions to the contrary. He was not a very desirable student and perhaps would not profit very greatly from the term here, especially if required to be here against his inclinations. He was 18 years of age at the time of enrollment. We are unable to find the properly signed consent for his enrollment as a student in our files, although there are indications that such consent was procured.

Very respectfully,

W. H. Mercer.

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-S

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Aug. 30" 1906.

Robert E. Congdon,
atty Gowanda, N.Y.

Rel. to release of
Jesse Pierce, a Seneca
Indian boy, from
Carlisle School.

To Congdon 9/4/06
Encl. Carlisle "

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CONGDON & CONGDON,
COUNSELORS AT LAW,
GOWANDA, N. Y.

JOSEPH M. CONGDON.
GLENN M. CONGDON.
ROBERT E. CONGDON.

August 30th, 1906.

C. F. Larrabee, Esq.,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir :-

Jesse Pierce, a Seneca Indian was taken into the Carlisle school some time ago and at present is at home with his mother . As I understand the case he ran away from the school and has since been permitted to stay at home with his mother, but has never regularly been released from the school . I have had a talk with the mother and she says that she never signed the papers giving her consent to have Jesse taken into the school and now she wishes that he should be released . I have written to Major W. A. Mercer concerning the matter and have not received a reply . Major Mercer wrote a letter to the boy in which he said that as long as the boy should stay at home, and help his mother, that he would permit him to stay there, but that he could not consent to releasing him at the present time and would insist that he had the right to take him back at any time .

It seems to me that under the circumstances, the Major ought to release the boy entirely . The mother of the boy is now named Ida Scott and is a respectable looking woman . She states emphatically that she never saw the papers and never signed them .

Kindly communicate with Major Mercer and see if between you you dont feel that this boy ought to be released . This boy is very ignorant and lives in great terror, thinking every night that the authorities are coming after him . This state of affairs should not exist . Either the authorities should take him or else they should release him entirely .

Sincerely,

Robert E. Congdon.