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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Nov. 5, 1906.

Maj. W. A. Mercer,
Supt.

Recommends that matter of proposed cavalry troop at Carlisle be dropped, at least for the present.

Mr Dorsey:
Show Commr
OTS
Done Feb.

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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 Nov. 5, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant (Education 96162/06), inclosing copy of letter dated October 30th from the Acting Secretary of War to the Secretary of the Interior, in which it is stated, in effect, that the War Department is not in accord with my ideas in regard to the establishment and maintenance of a cavalry troop at the school, and in which it is recommended that the item proposed for the Indian Appropriation Bill be amended to exclude all reference to the cavalry service, to the furnishing of army equipments for the use of the school and to the detailing of non-commissioned officers as instructors. There seems to be nothing left of the army support and as the army was to be one of the chief beneficiaries under this proposed new cavalry organization of the school, and as, furthermore, the work itself would be a hard and trying task which I was imposing upon myself in addition to my other duties, and as one of the two main incentives for the whole work has been destroyed by the attitude taken by the War Department, and that finally as without the co-operation of the War Department I believe the scheme would not be very successful and be entirely too expensive for the Indian Bureau alone to sustain,

I recommend that, for the present at least, no further action be taken looking to the establishment of a cavalry troop at Carlisle.

I cannot close this subject without saying that I feel that the Secretary of War has himself been very poorly advised as to the true conditions, intentions and purpose in connection with this proposed cavalry troop, and that both the Indians and the War Department are to lose much of value and the country itself sustain a loss of what would have proven to be, in time, a reserve of very fine cavalry soldiers. When the opportunity offers, as I trust it may in the near future, I will talk personally with the Military Secretary and Chief of Staff and I am sure that I can at least change the views as set forth in the communication to the Secretary of the Interior above referred to, because they certainly must be based upon wrong impressions of the true object of the proposed military organization as well as of the actual conditions as they exist.

Very respectfully,

W. A. Mercer

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

WAM-S