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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs

Rec. MAR 2

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March 1st 1907

W. S. Oliv, Special Agt.
Carlisle, Pa

Ref. to Funds of the
Athletic Assn. Carlisle
School. Transmits
statement of Major Mason,
/i

Transfd to A Mar 9/07
to Carlisle - 3/22/07



Special.

Diener



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Carlisle, Pa., March 1, 1907.

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

Sir:

Referring to my letter to you of the 20th ultimo in which I informed you that \$6100.68 was on deposit in the Merchants National Bank of Carlisle to the credit of the athletic fund of the Carlisle school, since Major Mercer's return I find that in addition to this fund there is deposited in the Girard Trust Co. of Philadelphia, \$12,900, also to the credit of this fund. Under the law of July 1, 1898, I claim that this fund should be taken up in the accounts of the superintendent. Major Mercer takes issue with me for the reasons set forth in the accompanying letter. I fully appreciate the embarrassment which would result should the Department and the accounting officers of the Treasury require the Superintendent to account for this fund as is required of him in the case of Government funds, and if there is a possible loop hole by which the matter can be satisfactorily adjusted, I would be only too glad to see it done.

In order to avoid complications in the accounts of the Superintendent, would it not be the proper thing for the Major to have Mr. Warner, the athletic director, designated as treasurer, giving sufficient bond for the safe-guarding of the fund, he to handle as manager the details of the athletic business, the superintendent simply overseeing in an advisory manner the receipt and disbursement

of these funds.

The amount on deposit in the Merchants National Bank has been reduced by payment of outstanding checks to \$1699.40, showing a total now to the credit of the athletic fund amounting to \$14,599.40.

Very respectfully,

J. D. Olive

Special U. S. Indian Agent,

WSO-S

Mr Dimick: As this is in
reply to an Accounts
letter, it ought to go
to you for consideration.

As Education has an
interest in the matter,
please let me know
what you recommend
to Major Larrabee.

W M

Mar 8/07.

Major;

I think as long as these moneys pass through the hands of the Supt. it is necessary under the law for him to bring them into his accounts in the regular way. However, ~~it seems to me that~~ if the Supt resigns as President of the Athletic Association and exercises none but a supervisory control of its finances, I do not see how an accounting can be required of him.

I don't know ~~that~~ there is any objection to the Association choosing its officers from among the school employees, but think

it better that they should
all be pupils, if possible.

Simian

3/11/07

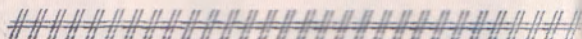
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Indian Office,

MAR 2

Incl. No.

1907



INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

Carlisle, Pa.,

March 1, 1907.

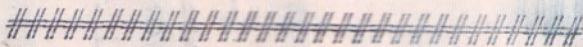
W. A. Mercer, Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent,

explains management of the

Athletic Association of the

School.



RECEIVED
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE PA
MAR 2 1907

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA March 1, 1907.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

(Accounts 19166/1907)

Replying to your letter asking if I do not think the monies of the Athletic Association and the Band should be accounted for to the Indian Office, I wish to say most decidedly that I do not think so. In the case of Athletics, we have a regularly organized athletic association, the officers of which are elected by the students who are members of the association. All receipts are deposited in the name of the athletic association and can only be drawn out by check of the treasurer when countersigned by the president. It happens now that I am acting as president of the Athletic Association and Mr. Miller, a clerk at the School, is acting as bookkeeper and treasurer for the association for which the Athletic Association pays him a small salary in addition to the salary he receives from the Government, and his duties as treasurer of the Association interferes in no way with his regular duties as a Government clerk.

I take the position that the Athletic Association is a students' organization just the same as the Y.M.C.A. here at the School, or the literary clubs we have here, of which there are three, and that if a student was acting as president and another student as secretary and treasurer this matter would never have come to the attention of the Indian Office and that

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

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CARLISLE, PA

March 1, 1907.

it is only because these funds have come into my hands by reason of my being an officer of the School Athletic Association that your Special has deemed it his duty to call your attention to it.

The Athletic Association as well as the Band has been in existence here at the School for many years and no question has ever been raised as to the advisability of the Indian Office assuming control of the finances of the same and never has there been any criticism of the way the finances have been handled. Our Athletic Teams have been maintained without asking one cent from the Government and every cent that has come into the possession of the Athletic Association has been properly used for athletic purposes except when any surplus accumulated this surplus has been used for permanent improvements here at the School, or in some way to directly benefit the School, and not one penny has ever been used for private purposes by anyone.

I think you will see the injustice of compelling the Athletic Association to account to the Government for all receipts when you consider how athletics are managed at all our Universities, colleges and schools. In none of them, so far as I can learn, do the school or college trustees or authorities have anything to do with the athletic finances or other

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CARLISLE, PA

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business, as athletics are considered an undergraduate or students' matter entirely, and athletics are managed and financed by the students without interference by the college, schools or University authorities or trustees. At West Point and Annapolis, I think you will find that all monies are collected and paid out by their respective athletic associations without any accounting to the Army or Navy Departments at Washington.

The very nature of athletics makes it impossible for the Athletic Association to continue should you order us to account for all funds received and get authority for all monies paid out. The Association has to arrange schedules for games months in advance; has to have supplies immediately; has to take immediate action on many matters when to go through the formality of getting authority from the Indian Office would simply make it impossible for the Association to exist, and I hardly think the Indian Office would want to run and finance an Athletic Association.

If the proposed action should be taken, it would simply mean that athletics here at the School could not exist and we would have to give it up. This would be very unfortunate as it is generally recognized by school and college authorities that athletics are a necessity and healthful influence in maintaining any educational institution, and especially do we need athletics here where it is all the amusements or re-

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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creation the students have and where their school and shop work keep them indoors so much of the time.

If it will change your attitude toward this matter, or if it is contrary to the letter of the law, or for me as superintendent to handle the Athletic Association money as the Association's president, I am perfectly willing to resign my position as president of the Association and have Mr. Miller resign as treasurer, and let the Association elect officers who are not in the Government employ at all. If this is done, I hardly see how any question at all could be raised by the Indian Office in regard to the athletic finances unless the Office takes the position that the finances of all students' organizations such as the School Y.M.C.A. and the three literary clubs should be under the supervision of the Government at Washington.

The very life of Athletics and the Band depend upon your action upon this matter and if after seeing our points of view as briefly outlined in this letter, you still think the Indian Office should interfere in these matters, I ask you not to decide the matter against our wishes until you have further opportunity either personally or by letter to go into all the details with us, and show you how impossible the situation would be were you to order us to account for these monies as though they were Government funds. On the other hand, if you agree with me, as I hope you will, that the Athletic As-

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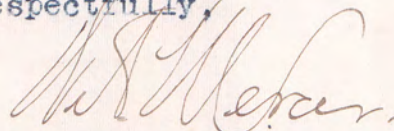
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sociation should be left free to manage its own affairs subject to my supervision, I ask you to let me know at once as the Association is now in the midst of the arrangements of next fall's football schedule, and several games have already been arranged, and we would like assurances from the Indian Office that we are free to make our own arrangements, and that the Athletic Association will be allowed to manage its own finances before we make any more athletic obligations.

The other subjects will be answered in a separate communication. I respectfully invite your attention to the accompanying letter from Special Agent Olive.

Yours respectfully,



Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

WAM/EFW