

24232

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAR 9

1907

88/81

File

Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
March 6, 1907.

Maj. W. A. Mercer,
Supt.

Reports relative to work put
on automobile in school paint shop
and relative to Curio, Photo and
Printery funds.

1 incl.

To Carlisle 3/22/07

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Curio

Show Comm^d

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

Carlisle, Pa., March 6, 1907.

The Honorable,

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

Sir:

Replying to your communication (Accounts 19166/07), in explanation of the report that an automobile, private property of the athletic director, was being repaired and painted at Government expense and that this was being done on my order, I have to say that it was not being repaired and painted at Government expense. The body had recently been painted but the luster had been dimmed by the use of a wash containing an injurious soap. Mr. Warner asked me if I could recommend a place in town where he could have it gone over and I told him we would be very glad to do it here for him if the work of the shop at present would permit of it. I sent for the instructor of the paint shop and he told me that at present we had no wagons or buggies to be painted and that we would be very glad to have the work for the shop. He moved the body, which is very similar to that of a surrey or two-seated carriage, into his paint shop and it was understood that whatever material was used would be supplied by Mr. Warner, and I inclose herewith a list of the material with its cost ^{\$3.93} which has been purchased and paid for by Mr. Warner, and the Government has not been put to the slightest expense about this work.

It is unfortunate that the Special Agent took the statement of an employe who for his own motives reported this matter to him and without consultation reported it to your Office. I do not think the circumstances warranted the spreading of this matter on the records, which has been the cause of talk and comment and will do more harm than good. The great trouble with our industrial instruction here is to have enough construction to apply the theories of the shops and we are always glad to have work of a practical, useful nature for our shops when the ordinary run of work does not supply it, and it is along these lines only and at the suggestion and request of the instructor in charge that I permitted the body of the automobile to be placed in the paint shop to be gone over as indicated.

I think that this is a matter that can safely be left to the discretion of the superintendent, and I assure you that Government property will not be used for private purposes nor the Government put to any expense. However, I should like your instructions to the contrary if you feel that I should not have this discretionary power.

In regard to the use of penalty envelopes by the athletic director, I have to state that this was by my direction as I noted that West Point athletic correspondence was carried on under official envelopes--at least such of it as has been directed to me--and I was following the plan carried out there. He never used the envelopes for his own business, but it was only for athletic matters connected with the school. I think, however, that there

can with justice be some question as to my right to permit this, and I have stopped it. They will not be so used hereafter. All correspondence of the athletic association will be carried on under regular postage as we have heretofore done. It was only recently that the plan was changed. I feel that the athletic matters are not properly government business.

In regard to the Curio Fund of \$39.94 and the Photo Fund of \$34.59, would say that these small amounts were erroneously reported on hand; that is to say, they were funds which were due for material or other indebtedness and have since been paid out for those purposes and at present there is no money on hand to either of those accounts, nor will there be in the future.

In regard to the Printery Fund of \$123.92 reported as on hand by Special Agent Olive Feb. 26th, which has been slightly decreased since in the expenditure for material and minor repairs, I have to say that this was accumulated and is kept at about that figure from such sources as subscriptions to The Arrow, the printing and sale of stationery for the use of the pupils, sometimes of a decorative nature, and which enables us to give the pupils a satisfactory writing paper at about half the price they would pay for it in town; the sale of souvenir postals at a slight advance over cost. The above are the only sources of income that I can now recall, and never can amount to very much. The purposes for which these funds are used are the purchase of material as above for goods so used, the payment of postage for the Arrow, and oftentimes for minor repairs which need immediate attention and where

it would be impracticable to wait for authority from your Office. In fact, the little fund is of great value to the student body and a convenience in the conduct of the printery, and if obliged to take up these funds and expend only on authority from your Office it would practically make it impossible to continue these little conveniences and helps to the pupils, and result in decrease of efficiency in the work of the shop. What small amounts are received by the printer are carefully noted and all expenditures, no matter how small, are receipted for and the month's business all entered carefully in a bound book of permanent record, and the accounts audited monthly by a council of administration appointed by me and ultimately laid on my desk for approval. There is absolutely no use of these funds for private purposes and there is no possibility of such use. If they were to be taken up and reported as official funds it would greatly decrease the efficiency of the printery.

The athletic and band funds reported on hand have already formed the subject of a separate communication under date of March 1st.

Very respectfully,

W. H. H. H.

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

24232

Indian Office,

MAR 9 /

Incl. No.

1907

In charge

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Pa.

IAL SCHOOL

1/2 lb Drop Black	25
1 Pint Black Varnish	50
1 " Clear Rubbing Var.	45
1 " Finishing "	75
White Lead 50 cts	50
1 lb Yellow	50
1/2 Pint Quick Rub	23
1 " Finishing Var.	75

W. C. Barnes
Automobile.

\$ 3.93