

60145

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs

Rec. JUL 5

1907

C - T

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,

July 3 1907

Enc. letter of Ella
G. Hill ad. to her
transfer from the
Carlisle School and
making complaint
against the Super. and
other employees of the
School,

5 mi

To ESC 7/8/07

FILE

FILE

JUL 3 1907

Sir:

Washington, D. C.

There is transmitted herewith a letter from Mrs. Ella G. Hill, formerly laundry manager at the Carlisle Indian School. In brief, it appears that Mrs. Hill received notice on June 6 with a reduction of \$180 a year in salary, which she refused to accept. Later she received notice that her position would be abolished, to take effect June 30, 1907. Mrs. Hill makes charges against the superintendent and some other employees of the school, and states that because of their actions three leading employees were resigned since June 1, 1907. The matters complained of

C - L

United States
Civil Service Commission,
Washington, D. C.

July 3, 1907.

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

Sir:

There is transmitted herewith a letter from Mrs. Ella G. Hill, formerly laundry manager at the Carlisle Indian School. In brief, it appears that Mrs. Hill received notice on June 6 that she would be transferred to a position in a western school with a reduction of \$120 a year in salary, which she refused to accept. Later she received notice that her position would be abolished, to take effect June 30, 1907. Mrs. Hill makes charges against the superintendent and some other employees of the school, and states that because of their actions three leading employees have resigned since June 6, 1907. The matters complained of do not call for action by the Commission, and Mrs. Hill has been so advised. It is thought that perhaps Mrs. Hill is more free in her statements to the Commission than if she had been addressing your office through official channels, and that you might wish to make inquiry into the matter complained of. Mrs. Hill is doubtless sincere in her belief that the matter should be called to the attention of the Commission, and for this reason she should not be caused to suffer for doing so. By direction of the Commission,

Very respectfully,

Enclosure.

Henry F. Erskine
Commissioner.

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

Education.
60145 - 1907.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON.

July 8, 1907.

The Civil Service Commission,

Gentlemen:

The Indian Office is in receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, inclosing correspondence from Ella G. Hill who complains of the abolishment of her position of laundry manager at the Indian school at Carlisle, Penn.

Miss Hill's case was given very careful consideration before being acted upon, and it is believed that the recommendations of the Superintendent were made for the best interests of the Service, and that the action taken was not unjust to Miss Hill.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. J. Farrabee
Acting Commissioner.

WAM.

60145

Indian Office,

JUL 5

Incl. No. 5

1907

Very respectfully,

I enclose copies of the entire correspondence.

It is objected to paragraph.

as indicated in unfavorable report, all of the old employees

because Mr. Olive, an Inspector, found conditions which

induced him to investigate the matter.

ive of Great and petty favoritism that I respectfully ask the

the conditions at Santa Fe are no serious and no urgent

itions to rectify the same when of a Superintendent.

classified service to be transferred or dropped from their pos-

Does the civil service allow seven employees in the

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
RECEIVED.
JUN 24 1907

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Carlisle, Pa., June 21, 1907.

To the Civil Service Commissioner,
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir;-

I have been an employee of the Carlisle Indian School for thirteen years. On June 6th I received notice that I was transferred to a similar position in a western school at a cut of \$120. a year in salary. I refused to accept and asked the reason for my demotion. The answer, without any explanation was that my position is abolished.

It is very evident that the reason given by the Superintendent to the Indian Office will not bear investigation. It is also evident that the Indian Office is supporting him right or wrong. Because it is absolutely ^{futile} to expect justice, three of the leading employees of the school resigned since June 6,

No official reason has ever been given me but Mrs. Saxon, the head matron of small boys quarters, has made threats to Miss Albert my assistant, that I "would have to go." Six assistant matrons, inside of two years, have either resigned or been transferred to other positions because they could not work with Mrs. Saxon. She has nagged and persecuted me in my work for a year, hoping that I would resign. I went to the Supt. but he refused to discuss the situation with me. Mr. Wise, the Ass't.

Sup't. , Mr. Kensler the Quartermaster, and Dr. Shoemaker have all remarked about the unfitness of the woman to be an employee over children. It is the common feeling here that not only my removal but that of other employees also is due directly to her influence and to protect her. Mrs. Saxon has told several employees that Major Mercer would support her in all that she did. She abuses the children and when an employee remonstrates they are the target for persecution and suspicion ever after.

Does the Civil Service allow seven employees in the classified service to be transferred or dropped from their positions to gratify the mere whim of a Superintendent?

The conditions at Carlisle are so serious and so suggestive of graft and petty favoritism that I respectfully ask the Commission to investigate the matter.

Because Mr. Olive, an inspector, found conditions which necessitated an unfavorable report, all of the old employees are subjected to suspicion.

I enclose copies of the entire correspondence.

Very respectfully,

Ella G. Keill

60145

Indian Office,

JUL 5

Incl. No.

1907

80, 1907.

RECEIVED

W. A. HARRIS

Major 11th Cavalry

Superintendent

I am in receipt of a letter from the Acting Commissioner
of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, in which he
requests me to inform you that the position of laundry manager at
this school will be abolished to take effect
receipt of your letter of the 18th instant and he in-

(Copy)

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

Carlisle Pa. June 17, 1907.

Miss Ella G. Hill, Laundry Manager,
Carlisle Pa.

Madam:-

I am in receipt of a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 15th instant, in which he acknowledged receipt of your letter of the 14th instant and he instructs me to inform you that the position of laundry manager at \$660. per annum at this school will be abolished to take effect June 30, 1907."

Respectfully,

W.A. Mercer

Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

Wm. C. Hill

Very respectfully,

No office or opportunity has ever been given me.

Notified of such charges and given an opportunity for defense.

Employees it is a civil service rule that the employee be

understand that when charges are preferred against an

Should your office kindly inform me the reason for my de-

No criticism of my work or character has ever come to

desire to accept the position offered me at \$740. a year.

In view of the fact that my salary for 1900 was \$700. I

Indian Office,

JUL 5

1907

60145

Dear Sir:

The Superintendent of the

(Copy)

Carlisle Pa., June 15, 1907.

The Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Through the Superintendent of the Carlisle School.

Dear Sir:-

In view of the fact that my salary is \$660. a year, I ~~shall~~
decline to accept the position offered me at \$540. a year.

No criticism of my work or character has ever come to
me. Would your office kindly inform me the reason for my de-
motion.

I understand that when charges are preferred against an
employee it is a civil service rule that the employee be
notified of such charges and given an opportunity for defense.
No notice or opportunity has ever been given me.

Very respectfully,

Ella G. Hill.

JUL 5

1907

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(Copy)

Carlisle Pa June 12, 1907.

Miss Ella G. Hill, Laundry Manager,
Carlisle Pa.

Miss Hill:-

The following are extracts from letter from the Commissioner dated June 10, addressed to me, supplied you for your information and guidance:-

Supt. Indian School
Carlisle Pa.

Sir:-

xxx x x x x x x
" As Miss Bowersox does not wish to accept transfer to Haskell until she hears from her relatives, the Office is willing to allow her a reasonable time in which to make a decision. Of course you have informed her that if she declines this transfer, her resignation will be accepted to take effect July 1, the date on which Mr. Whitwell has been directed to reach Carlisle. The Office should know by the 15, what Miss Bowersox intends to do in order that arrangements may be made to fill the position at Haskell if she declines."

xxx x x x x x x
The remarks made with regard to the case of Miss Bowersox are applicable to the case of Miss Ella G. Hill, Laundry Manager."

xxx x x x
Very respectfully,
C.F. Larrabee,
Acting Commissioner".

In order that the Indian Office may have the information required by the 15th, it will be necessary for you to inform this office not later than the 14th instant.

Very respectfully,
W.A. Mercer

Major 11th Cavalry, Superintendent.

60145

Indian Office,

JUL 5

Incl. No.

1907

CELESTINE P.
PERMANENT MANAGER.

CELESTINE, P. . . JULY 4, 1907.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

(30M)

(copy)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

Carlisle, Pa., June 4, 1907.

Miss Ella G. Hill, Laundry Manager,
Carlisle Pa.

Miss Hill:-

I am in receipt of a letter dated the 3rd instant from C.F. Larribee, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, from which the following extracts are quoted:-

"As you are aware, Commissioner Leupp contemplates some changes in the plans for Carlisle School, which involve certain changes in positions and the transfer of several employees and he wishes them to go into effect July 1. To carry out these plans you are advised xxxxxx xxxxxx

"That Miss Hill Laundry Manager, will be offered a transfer between now and the close of the fiscal year, to some school in the west as laundress (the only position to which she is eligible for transfer) at as large a salary as may be possible, but it is hardly probable that she can be given more than \$540. per annum. If she cares to take immediately a noncompetitive examination for the position of teacher or matron and passes, the office would endeavor to give her a transfer to one of those positions at a salary equal to that which she is now receiving. A prompt answer and request must be made, however, if she wishes to avail herself of this privilege. If she declines transfer by either method, her resignation will be accepted, if tendered, to take effect July 1. and she will be subject to reinstatement as laundress at any time during the year following. x x x x x x x

It is suggested that these directions of the commissioner be communicated to the parties affected, promptly on the receipt of this letter, in order that the Office may be able intelligently to make such other changes as may be necessary to carry out the plans adopted for the Carlisle School."

Please advise me at the earliest practicable moment whether you will accept the transfer offered and if not, whether you care to take the noncompetitive examination for teacher or matron as suggested by the Indian Office.

Very respectfully,

W.A. Mercer

Major 11th Cavalry, Superintendent.