

INDIAN OFFICE.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

6-4244

17181-
1915.

CARLISLE

File No.

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INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

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Ed-Schools
17181-1915
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AUG 12 1915

FOR FILE

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The Honorable,
The Secretary of War.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of August 4 enclosing copy of a memorandum from the War College Division of the General Staff, made subsequent to an inspection of the Carlisle Indian School, May 31, 1915.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) BO SWEENEY

First Assistant Secretary.

8-LP-9.

To Secretary

AUG 11 1915

For signature

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE

INDIAN SCHOOLS
Rec'd

WAR DEPARTMENT, AUG 7 1915
WASHINGTON,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
AUG 6 - 1915
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August 4, 1915.

I.O.

FILED BY C. P. F.

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
RECEIVED
AUG 6 - 1915
TO INDIAN OFFICE
SECTION OFF. MAIL & FILES

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum from the War College Division of the General Staff made subsequent to an inspection of the Carlisle Indian School, May 21, 1915, at your request.

Very respectfully,

Henry Reckwirth
Acting Secretary of War.

Each

July 30, 1915.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

FILED BY C. P. F.



Subject: Inspection of Carlisle Indian School.

1. In compliance with an indorsement from the Office of The Adjutant General on a letter herewith from the First Asst. Secretary of the Interior (AGO-2250014), an inspection of Carlisle Indian School was made on May 31, 1915.

2. The necessity for this inspection arose through the introduction in Congress of a bill by Representative Stevens, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, proposing to change Carlisle Indian School into a military school under control of the War Department.

3. Carlisle is a coeducational Indian school whose purpose is to give academic and vocational training in order to better fit Indian boys and girls to assume and discharge their duties and responsibilities as American citizens. It is to teach the boys practical farming and such trades as they may desire to follow, and to teach the girls cooking, sewing, and all household duties. In addition, there is a carefully graded school which includes courses in agriculture, teaching stenography, business practice, etc.

4. The military organization appears to have been formed as a disciplinary aid to the institution and for the physical development of the boys rather than for the purpose of further developing the military resources of the country.

5. This organization consists of four troops of cavalry composed of boys from 16 to 21 years of age and numbering on the average about 300 to 325 boys for the four troops.

In addition, there are two troops of small boys numbering on the average about 75 for both troops.

This strength varies greatly during the year, largely because boys who are willing are apprenticed in the spring as farmers in selected families in Pennsylvania and the neighboring country with a view to their farm training and to familiarize them with American life and customs. The first contingent leaves in April and the second in June.

6. The equipment consists of Springfield carbines, caliber .45, (old model) and black belts. The uniform is practically that of the dress uniform of the U. S. Cavalry.

7. There is ample barrack capacity for the present organization, and the institution has the numbers and facilities to satisfy all the requirements for the detail of an army officer under the provisions of the Act of November 3, 1893.

8. In considering whether it would be desirable to detail an army officer to this institution or whether the institution should be converted into a military institution under War Department control, it is necessary to consider the relation of the Indians to the Whites and the fundamental purpose of such an Indian school.

9. It is assumed that the object of this school is to make the Indians useful, self-reliant, independent citizens who will think and act in common terms with all other Americans; that anything which inclines them to think in

Indian terms only and to hold themselves a class apart with interests distinct from those of other citizens is undesirable and contrary to the object of the institution and to the best interests of the United States.

10. From this it follows that these Indians should be developed into citizens, rather than soldiers who are necessarily a class somewhat apart, and therefore that turning this institution into a miniature West Point would be contrary to the best interests of the Indians and of the United States; for what they chiefly need is academic and vocational training, particularly the latter; and opportunity to become familiar with American life and customs.

11. It would not conflict with these objects if they were given good military training such as is given in the better military departments of land-grant institutions, but the control of the institution should remain under the Department of the Interior which is better fitted for caring for them, and has in general been charged with safeguarding and civilizing them.

In other words, if these Indians are to be given military training, it should be incidental to their being civilized and made useful citizens.

12. As to the question of detailing an army officer for duty there under the provisions of Section 1225, R.S., and the acts in amendment thereof, it has been considered that the primary object of these acts was the development of material for volunteer officers in time of need, rather than soldiers in the ranks. While there would probably be little if any race prejudice against Indian officers, it is not believed that this field promises as good results as are to be obtained elsewhere, and as the number of officers authorized under existing law for detail on active pay is limited, it is believed they should be detailed elsewhere.

13. The detail of a retired officer on retired pay under the provisions of the Act of April 21, 1904, might be productive of good results both for the Indians and for the United States.

If a capable retired officer in sympathy with the primary objects of the institution were detailed, he could improve the discipline of the institution and give these Indians military training along with their other training, but it is believed that this is a matter which should be initiated by the Interior Department rather than the War Department, and if so initiated should then be considered only when the desires and intentions of the school authorities are clearly known to the War Department.

14. In view of the foregoing, it is recommended:

1. That any proposal to turn Carlisle Indian School into a military institution under the control of the War Department be disapproved.
2. That no active officer or retired officer on active pay be detailed to this institution.
3. That if the Interior Department should request the detail of an Army officer for duty at this institution as professor of military science and tactics, then only a retired officer should be detailed under the provisions of the Act of April 21, 1904.
4. That a letter containing a statement of the above recommendations be sent to the Secretary of the Interior for his information.
5. That a letter be also sent to Representative John H. Stevens, Chairman of Committee on Indian Affairs.

(Sgd.) M. M. MACOMB,

Brigadier General,
Chief of War College Division.

Report on bill authorizing change Carlisle Indian School into a military school for Indian men.

Further need of the Carlisle School in the plan of Indian education. It furnishes efficient training along industrial and vocational lines for Indians. The course to be maintained at the proposed military school would not so train Indian men.

Recommends that the bill be not favorably considered.

FILED BY G. P. F.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
WASHINGTON.

*Submitted
G.P.F.*

February 17, 1915.

MEMORANDUM.

This report on H. R. 21036, a bill to establish and maintain an Indian military training school at Carlisle in the State of Pennsylvania, and to discontinue the present Indian school at that place, involves no question of law, it being a matter of administration pure and simple.

It is not at all probable that the bill will receive consideration by this Congress, and therefore it may not be deemed necessary to give the committee any facts and figures. The report submitted by the Indian Office does not give any information.

FILED BY G. P. F.

A report to be satisfactory would probably include statements as to the number of pupils at this school, the amount of ground, the cost of the ground, the cost and condition of school buildings, the cost per capita for operating the school, and other pertinent facts. I presume the theory of abolishing this institution as a general Indian school is that we had sufficient educational facilities in other schools nearer the Indians. It would seem that comment on that would be appropriate.

I am inclined to the opinion that the Indian children should be

*Every report is made it should state some
of this at least. W.C.P.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
WASHINGTON.

educated at institutions to be located as far as possible in the neighborhood where they are to reside after leaving the school, but am not prepared to express any decided conviction.

WLP

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON.

February 20, 1915.

FILED BY C. P. F.

Commissioner Sells:

In accordance with the understanding had with Secretary Jones this afternoon, there is returned herewith, to be held for further consideration, the request of the House Committee on Indian Affairs for report on H. R. 21036, and the accompanying papers submitted from your office.


Private Secretary.

Inclosures 19316.

Ed-Schools
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Jan 20

EPBM

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Stephens:

I have your letter of January 20, which encloses a copy of H. R. 21036 on which you have requested a report for your committee.

[Large handwritten flourish]

This bill contemplates the discontinuance of the Carlisle Indian School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, July 1, 1915, and the establishment in its place of a school to be known as the United States Indian Military Academy at Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania, in which Indian boys between the ages of 17 and 20 may be enrolled for the purpose of taking a course of not less than three or more than four years in character similar to the course prescribed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

The Carlisle Indian School has heretofore served a very important place in the plan of Indian education and recently it has been reorganized and the courses extended so that Indian boys and girls will be able to take much longer courses than have heretofore been offered them.

This has been found necessary in order that young men and women may be better prepared for earning a livelihood when they leave the school. In its larger scope of work Carlisle will be needed in the plan of Indian education for a number of years to come.

The Indian Office considers that its first important duty toward Indian youth is to provide them an opportunity for adequate preparation for their industrial and social future, and to this end every form of vocational training known to be valuable to boys and girls in the proper maintenance of their homes, in the ability to earn a livelihood from their trades or from their farms, and to assume a worthy place in the community, is being given them.

The course of study to be offered by the proposed military school would be lacking in this respect and unless the Indian men were actually permanently employed by the government in a military capacity after graduation, they would have been inadequately prepared for the assumption of the ordinary duties of life.

Under all the circumstances, I am convinced that the Carlisle Indian School should be continued and for this reason I am constrained to recommend against the passage of the proposed bill.

Cordially yours,

Hon. John H. Stephens,
Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representative.

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Ed-Schools
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FEB 25 1915

Mr. O. H. Lipps,

Supervisor in Charge,

Carlisle Indian School.

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Lipps:

There is herewith enclosed for your information copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of War with reference to sending an officer of the General Staff to the Carlisle School for the purpose of making an inspection and to submit the report asked for by Hon. John H. Stephens, Chairman, House Committee on Indian Affairs.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

2-LP-24.

INITIALING COPY - FOR FILE.

17181-45

FEB 16 1915

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EBM

Dear Mr. Secretary:

FILED BY G. P. F.

I have your letter of February 11 in which you say that Honorable John H. Stephens, Chairman, House Committee on Indian Affairs, has requested you to send a representative of your department to visit the Carlisle Indian School for the purpose of getting information with reference to the character of the military training given at the school. This question has arisen in connection with a bill which has been introduced in Congress proposing to change Carlisle into a military school which would be under the War Department.

I am pleased to say that it will be entirely agreeable to have a representative from your department visit the Carlisle School at any time it suits your convenience and the Supervisor in Charge will be pleased to accord such a representative all the facilities necessary to get the required information.

Cordially yours,

Agnew

First Assistant Secretary.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of War.

2-LP-13.

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AGO 2250014

WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON,

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SECY'S OFF.-MAILS & FILES.

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
PREPARE REPLY
FEB 12 1915
FOR SECRETARY'S
SIGNATURE
SECY'S OFF.-MAILS & FILES.

February 11", 1915.

INTERIOR DEPT.
RECEIVED
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OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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The Honorable Franklin K. Lane,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sells PRS
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FILED BY G. P. F.

Sir:

The Honorable John H. Stephens, Chairman, House Committee on Indian Affairs, has requested me to send a representative of my department to visit the Carlisle Indian School. This visit is to be made with a view of getting more accurate information about the military department of the school and so determine its value as a military asset.

Mr. Stephens has introduced a bill, as you know, changing its curriculum and placing the institution in the same category as the institutions to be established by the McKeller Bill. Little or nothing is known in the War Department of the real value of the military training given at the school and such information is considered desirable before attempting to make the report asked for by the Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The annual inspection of civil educational institutions having military departments and where an Army officer is detailed will take place in April and May, and I should like to send an officer of the General Staff to the Carlisle School sometime during the above period for the purpose of making an inspection and to submit the report asked for by Mr. Stephens.

Very respectfully,

Lewis M. Harris

Secretary of War.

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