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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

35293, 1915.

CARLISLE

File No.

101

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MAR 26 1915

35293

1915

My dear Mr. Lipps:

FILED BY C. P. F.

Enclosed herewith you will find memorandum by Mr. Carter, dated March 8th, also your letter of March 10th, and an unsigned memorandum concerning betterments which have been effected at Carlisle since you have been in charge there. These for your use in re-drafting your letter on this subject, which I requested when you were in Washington.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

3-ESH-25

File
Mr. O. H. Lipps,
Supervisor in Charge,
Carlisle School.

FILED BY C. P. F.

The Indian School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, is the biggest institution of its kind in the country. With its corps of 79 teachers, instructors, and other employes and its enrolled student body of 766, it measures up to some of the larger universities.

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The former management of the Carlisle School was the subject of much adverse criticism, and about a year ago was under investigation by a Congressional committee.

The conditions at this school received the attention of Commissioner Sells of the Indian Bureau early in his administration, and, with a view of learning just what has been done towards bettering conditions there, a representative of the procured an interview with Commissioner Sells.

Answering the query as to what brought about the unsatisfactory situation, the Commissioner said:

"Probably the most serious thing was the total lack of discipline, which of course led to innumerable evils. The 'outing' system, which contemplates the placing of Indian pupils among private families and at places where they receive a remuneration for their labors and learn home-making and industry from actual contact, was poorly supervised, bringing about discontent

among the students and dissatisfaction among the employers. The course of study as formerly followed was in some instances not adapted to the needs of this class of students.

"Strong measures have been adopted to correct the slack discipline heretofore prevailing and the situation has improved materially and the moral standard of the entire student body raised to a satisfactory high plane.

"There have been arrests and convictions of bootleggers who were debauching the older students, and a concern located near the school has been closed. The liquor dealers, through their association, have assisted in the closing up of the joints and the discontinuing of sale to bootleggers.

"There has been substituted for a very poorly conducted business course a course in domestic science and a course in agriculture. Both of these are three-year courses and designed to meet the needs of Indian boys and girls. Professor H. L. Kent, Principal of the School of Agriculture of the Kansas State College, assisted in arranging the agricultural course and he has said that the plans for giving the Indian students at Carlisle practical instruction on the unit basis is the most practical of which he has knowledge.

"The outing system has been curtailed, and, instead of sending the more advanced boys who were learning trades out to employment outside of the school influence, they have been employed in doing general repair work around the school which was badly needed, such as painting the buildings, renewing old floors, remodeling houses, repairing the plumbing, building and repairing sidewalks, for which work they were paid nominal wages. In this way, they got a great deal of the very best sort of experience and practice and earned as much as they would have earned if they had been employed outside of the school. The few students who were sent out to employment were carefully selected from among the student body, and, as the result, we have received practically no complaints from the students or the employers.

"It became necessary, of course, in bringing about these changes in management, to make some changes in the personnel of instructors. The new courses provided for are agriculture, mechanical arts, home economics, and hospital nursing. The athletic association has been completely reorganized so as to place athletics in its proper relation with the general purposes of an educational institution.

"Admission has been refused to some pupils whose records were bad and whose continuance would be detrimental to the school, and care is being exercised

to admit only those students whose records are reasonably good."

In conclusion, Commissioner Sells said that the renovating had been so thorough and complete that he felt assured that the future administration and accomplishments at Carlisle would be a credit to the Indian Bureau and that the Indian students would be equally proud of their Carlisle training, and that the institution was now on a sound basis, that extravagances had been eliminated and industry encouraged, both among the employes and the students.

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