

Supt.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Subject: Report on
Carlisle school.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN SCHOOLS.

May 16, 1908.



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

Sir:

I have the honor respectfully to report on the conditions at the Carlisle Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.

Indians from many sections of the United States, including Alaska, were in attendance, and at the time of my visit the enrollment exceeded 1000. The plant was in good repair, and the sanitary condition of the buildings and ground was excellent. A new hospital and several buildings for employees had been completed, all the work being done by student labor. The doors, stairs, sash, etc., were made in the school shops, and this gave the boys practical training in construction work.

The class-room work showed improvement over that of my previous visit, and was being more closely correlated with the industrial work than heretofore. An effort is made to ascertain the needs of pupils as determined by their home conditions and probable future occupations, and to shape their industrial training accordingly. More attention in the class-room was being given than heretofore to agricultural instruction, and the teacher in charge had outlined courses in dairying, gardening, fruit growing, etc., for the various grades.

A large number of pupils were taking advantage of the outing system, which offers the boys excellent training in farm work and the girls in cooking and other home-making arts.

The new superintendent, who had entered on duty just prior to my visit, had outlined a number of changes in the various departments

Carlisle Pa.

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and it is believed that they will greatly increase the efficiency of the school.

At the Institute held at Cleveland, Ohio, the latter part of June, a class of Carlisle pupils repeated a part of the school commencement exercises, with a view to showing other schools the character of the features the Office desires introduced. Elizabeth Penny, a graduate student, delivered an oration entitled "My People", in which she recited the history and customs of her tribe (Nez Perce). Her talk was illustrated by six Nez Perce Indians (Carlisle pupils) in costume who sang native songs and performed dances and various ceremonies of the tribe. The exercise proved a most interesting as well as instructive feature, and was repeated at a subsequent session, by request of the audience.

The instructor in Native art, Mrs. Angel DeCora Deitz, also gave, with the aid of pupils, practical demonstrations in rug-weaving. Native looms were set up and while the children were engaged in weaving she explained how original Indian designs may be applied to the manufacture of rugs of Persian weave, and how the aboriginal art of rug-weaving may be revived and perpetuated through instruction given the school children. The part taken in the institute by the Carlisle pupils reflected great credit on the school.

Very respectfully,

Supt. of Indian Schools.