

INDIAN OFFICE.

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By order of

E. B. MERITT,

Asst. Commissioner.

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1918.

CARLISLE

File No.

720

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JAN -7 1918

Mr. John Francis, Jr.,

Supt. Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Francis:

FILED BY C. P. F.

I have read with interest your letter of Dec. 18th in which you advance the suggestion of using the Carlisle Outing System as a means of procuring homes for considerable numbers of war orphan children of France and Belgium.

The idea, I am free to admit, is both patriotic and humanitarian, and from that point of view carries a strong appeal. On the other hand, it would, obviously, introduce a radical innovation in our affairs and as an experiment would hardly be free from risk that might prove embarrassing, under existing authorized provisions.

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
RECEIVED
JAN 19 1918
4888

It seems to me that the proposed plan would require a definitely located responsibility for these children and that such responsibility, almost necessarily, would fall upon the School. There would be incidental expense in starting the movement and, no doubt, in continuing it, as there would probably be a certain percentage of families receiving the orphans under your outing system that would become dissatisfied and prefer to cancel or discontinue the arrangement, which would naturally return the children thus affected to the care and protection of the School. As you suggest, probably funds would be voluntarily contributed from philanthropic sources to meet the preliminary needs and, perhaps, for further maintenance, but such assistance, however willing and generous, is not obligatory and is always variable according to the nature of the many importunate appeals presented to it.

You, of course, realize without intimation from me, that Carlisle is a distinctively Indian School, supported by appropriations the same as many other like institutions which go to make up our authorized system for Indian protection and education, and some enabling legislation would seem to be necessary for this undertaking, should its association with the affairs of our Bureau be deemed wise, which I hesitate to admit at this time, believing rather that the welfare of these foreign children, which touches us all very deeply, might better be promoted through other relief agencies like the Red Cross or charitable organizations operating less extensively.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON



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Supt. Carlisle School.

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FILED BY C. P. F.

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Commissioner.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PA.



December
Eighteenth,
19 17.

The Honorable
Cato Sells,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

FILED BY G. P. F.

My dear Mr. Sells:

I have a thought concerning the opportunity of Carlisle for service which I wish to bring to your personal attention.



It is in connection with the orphans of our allies in France and Belgium. As I understand it there are many comparatively small children over there who are in want and who have absolutely no opportunity for the future.

Here at Carlisle we have a splendidly organized Outing system which has been running for years. The school has thousands of friends among the wellto do farmers of this state who have been willing in the past to take Indian boys and girls and give them a home and training for the work they could do in return. Necessarily, with the enlistment of our larger boys and the higher wages that the other Indian boys can obtain by reason of the scarcity of labor in manufacturing industries there will be fewer who will want to go out upon farms. I found this true last summer and it will undoubtedly be true this summer. This would leave all sorts of homes where boys and girls from 12 years up could be placed. These little war orphans could be given homes and proper surroundings and in the winter they could go to the public schools and in a very few years develop into well educated men and women and become good citizens of their own or adopted country.

There would be no thought of attempting to educate war orphans to any extent at the school. My idea is simply that the school should be used as a temporary clearing **house** where war orphans could be sent and held, and that its Outing system with all its friends through its years of fine work would be used to procure them good homes.

The plan will appeal to you because of the opportunity to help these little ones, to give them the necessary care and an opportunity of education, when otherwise, by force of circumstances, they may be forced to grow up in ignorance or die from want. It will bring these children who need homes into contact with the farmers and **truck** gardeners in the most/thickly populated part of our country, where labor is in demand and where even the labor of these children can have a real value. We now have the organization at Carlisle to see that the children get in proper homes and are not abused.

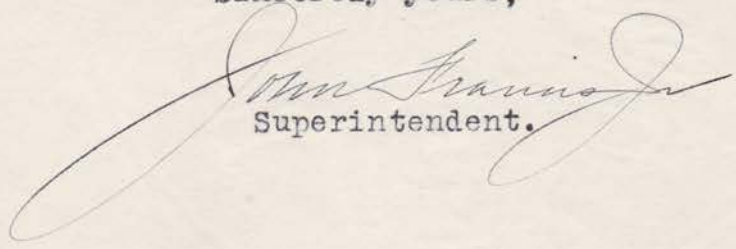
I note that private charities are caring for many of these children abroad at the present time. Some have even been brought to this country. It would seem that arrangements might be made by the Red Cross to gather the parties and let them come to the United States on empty Government transports from the other side. The/only cost would be the transportation from the port where they arrive to Carlisle and for their maintenance until such time as arrangements could be made for them to get in homes. In some cases it might be necessary to give the children a period of rest, in other cases they might need medical attention, but in the main it would not be expected that they would stay at the school for any length of time.

Our girls' quarters and our small boys' quarters are full but we have some room in large boys' quarters, and arrangements could be made around the plant to care for these children. We have teachers who can speak French.

This plan would not interfere with this school as an Indian school. All that is needed is to arrange through the Red Cross for the children to be gathered,

and authority from the War Department for the children to be brought on return transports to some port in the United States. There will then be the cost of transportation to the school, and it will be necessary for me to have authority for caring for them until such time as they can be placed in Outing homes. The Outing patron will pay for the transportation of the children from the school to their homes. If no other way was possible as far as transportation funds are concerned, I am quite sure that they could easily be raised from private sources in Philadelphia or elsewhere. I am sure that everybody throughout the country will want to help us in this work.

Sincerely yours,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "John Strauss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Superintendent".

Superintendent.

JF/S