

Education-
Schools
39969-1911
C H S

Indian School,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Your telegram fourteenth. Office letter of April
fourteenth hereby rescinded. There will be no restriction as to
grades. *for the present anyway.*

(Send by Postal)

E-TS-21

FOR FILE.

R. G. Valentini

35866-11 Carlisle 820

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Mr. Dorch =

Please
have the idea
here properly
expressed
& sent in
for me to
sum

FILED BY G. H. M.
Kilby

July 14, 1911.

Friedman.

These letters to Superintendents Friedman and Allen, limiting the enrollment by grades, were approved by the board.

Your telegram 14th.
Letter of April 14th hereby
rescinded. There will
be no ~~hand~~ restriction as to
grades.

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H. H. ...
Assistant Commissioner

July 14, 1911.

Mr. Valentine:

These letters to Superintendents Friedman and Allen, limiting the enrollment by grades, were considered by the conference of supervisors, who, I understand, recommended against limitation by grades, and in favor of the present age limitation.

Mr. Peairs, I believe, personally is rather inclined to favor the plan as outlined in these letters, but he does not feel very strongly on the subject, and is rather inclined to the belief that the consensus of opinion among the supervisors should govern. I think you should decide this question personally. It is one of those problems where there are strong arguments on both sides. Were I deciding the case myself, I think that for the present I should not change the present rule.

J. H. Abbott
Assistant Commissioner.

7-GAC-14

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NIGHT TELEGRAM

362

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94G. V. 46 Night Govt.

Received at
1345 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.24
(1100)

Carlisle, Pa., July 14., 11

(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

Commission Indian Affairs, WASHINGTON, DC.

Please see my letter May fifth answering office letter of April fourteenth limiting enrollment to third grade final decision needed so that work of enrollment may proceed intelligently and immediate cropping of unnecessary teachers may be recommended without delay.

Friedman Supp., 11:50 PM

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JUL 15 1911

TELEGRAM

To

July the 14th, 1911.

Commissioner, Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Please see my letter May 5th, answering Office letter of April 14th, limiting enrolment to 3rd Grade. Final decision needed so that work of enrolment may proceed intelligently and immediate dropping of unnecessary teachers may be recommended without delay.

E. A. C.

Sent Night message M.
(Eastern time.)

By Postal Lines
Government rate.

~~PAID~~ COLLECT

FRIEDMAN
Superintendent.

Per Moyer

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Education-
Schools
39969-1911
P C

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON

Limitation of
enrollment.

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Superintendent Carlisle Indian School,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Sir:

I have your letter of May 5, in answer to Office letter of April 14, which prohibits the enrollment of Indian pupils unless they are prepared to enter the third grade at your school.

I have gone over your reasons quite carefully and I am of the opinion that the Office ought not to recede from the position that it took in its letter to you of April 14.

One of the principal reasons set out by you for opposing the plan of eliminating first and second grade pupils is that it will prevent a large number of the older boys and girls from securing an education, be-

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cause of the fact that they have not had advantages of school training in their youth, and cannot properly pass an academic examination qualifying them to enter the third grade.

I am not convinced that your statement of this matter is as important as your letter would seem to indicate you think it is. The time has now come when the major portion of the pupils who are enrolled at your school come from those reservations and communities where English is spoken, and the number of older boys and girls who otherwise ought to be enrolled at Carlisle, and cannot be because of their inability to enter the third grade, is very small. A few of our schools should be distinctively advanced, and I want Carlisle to be one of these. It is not intended, as you intimate in your letter, to have this order affect your school only, for I have already directed that the same regulation be observed at Haskell and Chilocco and am seriously considering the matter of extending the provisions to one or two other schools.

In your letter you also say that it will unnecessarily reduce the enrollment at Carlisle; therefore causing waste in expenditure and teaching force, because of the fact

that you already have a faculty sufficient to care for the number you now have enrolled, and that the order will also result harmfully to the Indians and to the Service.

I do not believe that your conclusions in this matter are entirely correct. If you are able, and I think you will be, to fill your school with pupils who are qualified under this regulation to be enrolled, then there will be no economic loss as regards services of employees or use of the present equipment at your plant; and I cannot see how the Service will be at all injured. On the other hand, if you will take from other Indian schools those pupils who have been brought up to a certain standard and carry them to higher attainments along industrial and academic lines, at the same time relieving these schools of their advanced pupils so that their time can be more profitably and economically spent with those remaining in the lower grades, I believe it will result in material benefit to the entire Service, and particularly to your own school.

Respectfully,

6-TS-1

Commissioner.

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Respectfully,

6-TS-1

Commissioner.

30044-1911
R E H

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



30044

100069

Limitation of enrollment.

May 5, 1911.

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

Sir:-

I have your Office letter of April fourteenth containing instructions to receive no more students into the school who are not qualified for entrance in the third grade, in order to decrease the enrollment of the Carlisle School. After most careful consideration of the subject from all sides, it is my belief that this action is a harmful one for reasons as follows:

First - At one fell swoop it denies to hundreds of Indian youth the opportunity to receive thorough industrial and vocational training at a time in their lives when they stand in most immediate need of such training. There are hundreds of Indians on the Reservations between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one, who, because of lack of opportunity, inadequate school facilities, or without encouragement or inclination, have received little or no academic training during their younger years. Your action would prevent these Indians from gaining a thorough knowledge of agriculture or

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of some trade, and simply because they have not attained a certain academic standard.

It would also keep out of school a large number who had, in early years, been to school. They had then received no industrial training, and after the lapse of years have forgotten much of the book training received in former years. These young people, gradually waking up to their needs, are now anxious to learn a trade, but not being able to enter the third grade would be debarred.

The Carlisle School has made it a practice in recent years to encourage Indians who were under the age of fourteen to stay on the Reservation and get all the benefits which the day school and the reservation boarding school can give. Shortly after I came, I voluntarily cut the enrollment, by sending to their homes more than forty children under the age of fourteen, because I believed that, at their age, they should be in close personal touch with their parents.

The average age of our boys is nineteen years, and the average age of the girls, eighteen, showing that we are in no sense duplicating the work of the reservation schools, which have few facilities and give little or no instruction of a vocational character. The students whom we receive and train are primarily of mature age, who stand in urgent need of definite, effective, industrial training.

In a sense the action taken by the Office goes further, and imposes an academic standard as the basis of Indian education. This, I do not believe to be the policy of the Office, and yet, if carried out, it has this result.

It would be unfair to the hundreds of Indians between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one, who are living on the Reservation, to say to them, "You must go to the reservation school with children much younger than yourself, where you can receive only academic training, for two or three or four years, until you acquire enough instruction to enter the third grade, before you can take up and thoroughly master some trade." The result would be that these young people would not go anywhere, and would be deprived of the training which the Carlisle School has been built to give and has for years been giving to hundreds. These young people, both boys and girls, would continue to live as incompetents, picking up what little they could on the Reservation, because the best training schools of the Service were closed to them.

Second - The letter indicates that the aim of the Office is to cut down the enrollment of the Carlisle School. This, I am firmly convinced is obstructive and unnecessary, because the school is not overcrowded, and for the further reason that the cutting down of the attendance would, in just that far, limit the good which the school can do. The equipment and facilities are here to efficiently train and educate

the number of students who are enrolled, and the school could handle an additional number, if more could be encouraged to attend.

Through the Outing System, which is recognized as one of the greatest civilizing agencies in the entire Service, a certain proportion of our students are sent to the public schools, while they live and work in the best families in this and neighboring states; others work regularly at their trades in work shops and manufacturing establishments, or with contractors. In this way our boys and girls, acquire industry, independence, civilized habits, motives, and ideals, learn the conditions of labor on the outside and have instilled in them such a knowledge of the meaning, by practice, of a full day's work, as no Indian school, or any other kind of a school, could ever teach them. For years the Indian Office has publicly recognized the Outing System, which had its inception and largest success at the Carlisle School, as one of its greatest agencies for the development of Indian youth. Thus the actual number of students who reside at one time at the school is about 600 during the winter months, and between 250 and 350 during the summer months,- an attendance which is smaller than that at most of the large nonreservation schools.

The number in the faculty which we have here now, most of whom would have to be continued whether the student

body was large or small, can efficiently give instruction to the number of students now carried. To diminish the student body would be to deprive just that many Indians of an education, and inasmuch as there are about ten thousand Indians of school age out of school, or without school facilities, such an action would seem a strange one.

Of course, I take it that similar action has been taken with regard to all other nonreservation schools. Anything less would be a discrimination against Carlisle.

For these reasons therefore,- that such action would deprive hundreds of needy Indians of the benefits of a practical education; that no academic standard should stand in the way of the Indian becoming a competent workman; that such a course would tend to increase illiteracy and incompetency among Indians by increasing the number who are out of school; and that to cut down the present attendance at Carlisle would be to curtail its educational activity and limit its usefulness to the Indian,- I trust that the action of your office may be reconsidered. If it is allowed to stand, I cannot but feel that it will result harmfully to the Indian and detrimentally to the Service.

Very respectfully,


Superintendent.

MF:SR

Education-
Schools
30044-1911
R/H H

APR 14 1911

Limitation of
enrollment.

Mr. Moses Friedman,

Superintendent Carlisle Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

In order that the legitimate aim and purpose of the Carlisle School shall be carried out, supplementing to some extent the training which the Indian children should receive in their home and reservation, and affording instruction which they cannot receive elsewhere, and for the further purpose of reducing the enrollment to an extent which will increase the efficiency of the school, no pupils must be received who would have to be placed in the primary, first or second grades; hence, enroll only Indian children who are prepared and qualified to enter the third grade at least.

Respectfully,

(Signed) R. G. Valentine.

4-OGP-11

Commissioner.

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FOR FILE.

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1911