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By order of

E. B. MERITT,
Asst. Commissioner.

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Mr. John Francis, Jr.,

MAILED BY C. P. F.

Superintendent, Carlisle School.

My dear Mr. Francis:

I am in receipt of your letter of July 16, in which you refer to Section Six of the Declaration of Policy and to having received a letter from Supervisor Wyly regarding its application to the enrollment of pupils at Carlisle from the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Declaration of Policy, I think it should be said, was a statement of principles rather than an elaboration of details. It was more general than specific in its scope and purpose and should be interpreted and applied with such reasonable adaptation to exceptional conditions and with such forethought and moderation as should be exercised in working out the administrative features of any comprehensive policy. The best it contains and its real aims should not be endangered by a peremptory or narrow construction of language.

The basic purpose of the Policy is right. Every official or Superintendent in the Indian Service knows that. It is a sincere effort to begin the practice of our preaching; to turn our dreams and theories into something concrete; to realize actual competency for the Indians. Of course, we must go about this with care and discretion and a practical consideration of any peculiar situation encountered, whether it be personal, tribal, geographical, or of any other character, and in the spirit of loyal cooperation throughout the Service.

The essential purpose of Section Six of the Declaration of Policy is to withdraw gratuity aid in the education of pupils whose parents are amply able to pay for

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their education. The words: "and have public school facilities at or near their homes," should not be strictly applied to children of poor or non-competent parents, or who because of objectionable home conditions, lack of personal care and cleanliness, little knowledge of English, indifferent parental interest, or from some similar and special cause, are not made welcome in the public schools.

If after completing the work of the tribal schools, or having attained the proper grade for transfer from the reservation schools, such children seek admission to the nonreservation school designated to receive them, I shall not prohibit their enrollment there, as heretofore, when it is shown that they would not profit by enrollment in the local district school or would not be received there. It is not my intention under the Declaration of Policy to deprive of an education Indian children who have no means of securing the same except in a Government Indian School.

The general policy of public school attendance is still practically the same as it has been for some time and quite clearly indicated in Secs. 246, 247, Rules for the Indian School Service 1913. I see no occasion for changing that policy now. It is working well and every year attendance in public schools is increasing under its enforcement.

I can approve your suggestion that the application of the Declaration of Policy should properly be made to the individual case in determining whether the parents are amply able to pay for their children's education. There would seem to be no other way. Under this sifting process the children of well-to-do, progressive parents with public school facilities at or near their homes would be eliminated, except on payment of actual per capita cost and transportation, and the children of more than one-fourth degree of Indian blood whose parents are non-progressive and financially incapable may be enrolled in the nonreservation schools to which they are eligible under existing rules, unless they can be adequately cared for in the public schools under payment of tuition. I also see no reason why the same rule should not govern with reference to children of the Five Civilized Tribes who have guardians because

because of deceased or noncompetent parents, their financial resources determining, upon investigation in each case, whether their education should be free or paid for.

It does not occur to me that any deviation from the foregoing need be made in the case of applications from New York Indians, but if you have further suggestions to offer affecting their status, I will consider them.

As to the territory from which Carlisle may properly draw pupils, I do not find that more definite limits have been set than those involved in the cost of transportation. It is expected that in the absence of special considerations students will go to the nonreservation school accessible at the least expense for travel. Of course Sections 16 (as amended) and 17, of the School Rules, make specific designations as to children of the Five Civilized Tribes and the New York Indians.

Some consideration may be given to your geographical location with reference to the like situation of the other schools authorized to do the full four years vocational work, viz., Albuquerque, Chilocco, Flandreau, Haskell, Phoenix, Salem and Sherman. Also your facilities for advanced training and your outing arrangements, particularly in the interest of students of applied mechanics at motor car and other factories, or for the special equipment of nurse, should, perhaps, permit some latitude in special and worthy cases.

If there are matters in connection with this general subject you would like to discuss further, I shall be glad to have you do so.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Cato Sells

Commissioner.

Carbon to Supervisor Wily.
7-18-26

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL

CARLISLE, PA.

July 16, 1917.

FILED BY G. P. F.



Hon. Cato Sells,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner:

This morning I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. A. S. Wyly, Supervisor of Indian Schools, Muskogee, Oklahoma, regarding applications for enrollment of pupils from the Five Civilized Tribes in Carlisle.

Mr. Wyly advises me that he has written you with reference to Section Six of the Declaration of Policy and its application to Oklahoma children. He indicates to me that if this section is strictly observed he is doubtful whether any pupils from the Five Tribes will be eligible for enrollment as nearly all of them are within reach of public schools.

The decision in regard to this matter is of the most vital importance to the future of this school.

Out of 811 pupils enrolled during the past year 126 were from Oklahoma and 125 from the State of New York.

The theory which has evidently governed this institution in the past in enrolling this class of students is that even though their homes are located adjacent to public schools, if they desire training in vocational branches which are not given by such public schools, the children if of more than $\frac{1}{2}$ Indian blood and between the ages of 14 and 21 years, could be enrolled.

With this policy the enrollment during the past year was ample to cover the expenditures of the school at the legal per capita cost of

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\$200 per pupil.

Our graduating class numbered 56 pupils and about 35 of our male pupils have enlisted in the Army. After subtracting those whose time has expired, there remains an enrollment of approximately 500 which may be reduced through the failure of those on leave to return.

The current appropriation bill provides for an enrollment of 800 pupils. Approximately 2000 names of children entitled to transfer and enrollment have been sent to this school, as well as to the other large schools, by agency superintendents, and an earnest effort is being made to interest these pupils in this school and in the natural order of events Carlisle will enroll a reasonable number from this list. It is doubtful however whether enrollments from this list will be sufficient if Oklahoma and New York are eliminated, to furnish sufficient pupils to fill the school to capacity during the present year. I am not quite clear, however, that it is the intention of the Declaration of Policy to bar us from enrolling pupils from Oklahoma and New York.

The school is splendidly prepared to give vocational instruction in addition to the ordinary academic courses. Its Ford classes offer a wonderful opportunity for young men. Its outing system is unsurpassed. The plant, though old, is complete and capable of years of service. Its corps of employees is efficient.

It seems that by reason of the geographical difficulties which the school must face in procuring pupils that careful consideration should be given to the effect of the Declaration of Policy on it and instructions be given me particularly in regard to pupils who may have public school facilities within the states of Oklahoma and New York. Likewise I would like to be advised of the territory from which this school may properly draw pupils, as I am unable to find any instructions in this regard.

Unquestionably the Indian should be trained to work and to work with his hands. The non-reservation schools are planned on that principle. In the case of wealthy progressive Indians having public school facilities there is no necessity for enrolling their children, but in

the case of non-competent and non-progressive parents the enrollment of a child in a public school will not mean its attendance and in competing with white children Indian children from this class of parentage will not receive the character of training best suited for their future or that sympathy which their successful development would demand.

In New York and Oklahoma I understand many Indian children live within a few miles of large cities containing the very best educational facilities, but these parents have not the means or the energy in most cases to pay the board and lodging of their children in the towns which would be necessary if they utilized these facilities.

It would seem that the application of the Declaration of Policy could properly be made to the individual case rather than by a general application.

Could not the children of the well-to-do progressive parents living adjacent to public schools be eliminated or required to pay tuition, while in the case of non-progressive Indians of a large amount of Indian blood their children could be permitted to be enrolled in our schools until such time as the gradual placing of responsibility will make their elimination desirable. In the case of wealthy Indians of this class they should, of course, be required to pay tuition for their children. In other words it would seem to be a hardship to apply the rule to those Indians who are just getting on their feet. It would seem also that the doors of Carlisle could properly be opened to Indians from the Five Civilized Tribes who are under the care of guardians, their parents being dead or non-competent. Where they are wealthy they should be required to pay their transportation and tuition, but ^{should} the mere fact that they live near a public school which they would not attend be made a bar to their enrollment?

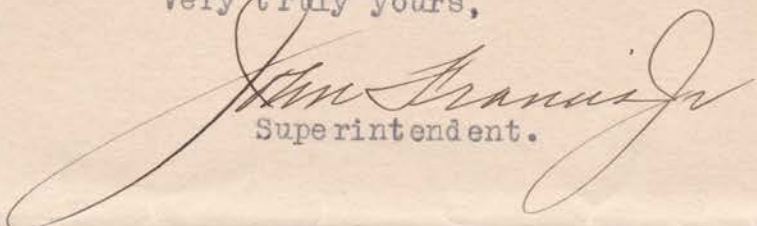
The points herein brought out are submitted in no sense as an argument against the Declaration of Policy but rather with a view of presenting for your consideration in connection with any interpretation of the Declara-

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tion the conditions at Carlisle with particular
reference to Oklahoma and New York states.

Very truly yours,

JF:R


Superintendent.

