

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Subject:-  
Tuition Fees.

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., August 13, 1909.

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



Sir:-

I have your Office letter marked "Education Administration 59337-1909-8, F.I.P.", dated August 5, 1909, concerning the expulsion of Spencer Williams and Carl Sylvester. I note that the action of expelling these students has been approved.

In further reference to this letter, it is noted that your Office has in mind the scheme of charging a moderate tuition fee for graduates and over-age pupils who enter the business course, and a similar fee for those entering on special industrial courses. The example of Hampton and the methods there in vogue are quoted in your letter.

The Carlisle school, under the present administration, has enrolled very few students who are graduates or beyond the age of twenty-one. This policy has been dictated because of the fact that I believe that, except in special cases, pupils who have graduated from the regular course of training, or who, before entering the Carlisle school, are at the age of maturity have no special claims on the government for additional education.

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As I have outlined at various times to your Office the plan for the business department at Carlisle, you are undoubtedly acquainted with the fact that such special instruction <sup>was</sup> not planned as a scheme to attract students, nor as a means of holding those who have completed the general work of the school; the department was established by authority from your Office for the purpose of giving instruction in clerical work and business practice to a limited number of special students ( this number having at no time during the present year been above twelve ) who showed by natural aptitude and previous training special fitness for work of this character as a vocation. The main consideration in introducing the business course was to give instruction to all of the students in the four upper grades in general business practice, the fundamental principles and elements of business law, elementary practical bookkeeping, modern methods of correspondence and preparation of telegrams, bills of lading, checks, etc., all of which it was felt every young person, and especially every Indian, should know. This idea has never been departed from since the organization of this department, and the wisdom of its establishment has been proven by the results which have been obtained during the past year. I make this explanation because of the fact that in at least one other non-reservation school, the business course is held out as a bait for students, who are enrolled in this department indiscriminately and regardless of their natural ability, and there are about 75 special students out of a total enrollment much less than ours who are taking special work in this course.



Admission is usually denied students above the age of twenty-one at the Carlisle school. As a usual thing, such students are at the age where they should be earning their own living. In a few cases, I have enrolled students above that age because the correspondence indicated that they had very little, or no, education, or because they desired to receive special instruction in one of the trades in order more particularly to fit themselves as mechanics and tradesmen. In all cases the students who have been admitted under these conditions have been deserving. The enrolling of students beyond the age of twenty-one has not been questioned at Carlisle in the past, and is very largely practiced by the other larger non-reservation schools and by Hampton Institute. Although the course at Hampton does not supplement the course at Carlisle, an advertisement has been sent out by the former Institution for the enrollment of Indians who are graduates of non-reservation schools. This advertisement also has this sentence:—"Applicants should not be less than seventeen nor more than twenty-three years of age".

It is suggested in your letter, first, that the charging of a moderate <sup>tuition</sup>/fee be made for graduates and over-age pupils, and second, that a partial pay system similar to that in use at Hampton be devised.

I see no objection to the imposition of a moderate tuition fee on all graduates of non-reservation schools, or those who are beyond the age of maturity, but if such a fee is charged



it should be made applicable and binding on all schools where Indians are educated, and which are supported entirely, or in part, by the United States Government. Unless this were done, such a ruling would work a hardship and injustice to the particular school where it was insisted upon.

I have not examined the question of law which enters into this, but I respectfully call your attention to this also: Can the Government consistently and in conformity with law charge tuition fees to Indians for entrance in non-reservation schools when those schools have been primarily established for, and are now maintained by Congress to educate Indians?

Regarding the partial pay system in vogue at Hampton, I have to inform you that the students at Carlisle partially defray their expenses by the work which they do in industrial departments and in keeping the plant in order. I have just received a report of the Treasurer of Hampton Institute for the year 1908, on pages 2 and 3 of which I find that although Hampton has less than 900 boarding students in comparison with more than 1000 at Carlisle, the general expenses for the year amounted to the large sum of \$247,485.38, or a sum of \$78,485.38 in excess of the amount expended by the Carlisle school for the same year. This does not include the sum of \$39,368.91 expended for permanent improvements at Hampton during that year. This may be considered a typical year. These expenditures are found on pages 5 and 12 of that report. An examination of the income to meet the expenditures at Hampton Institute discloses the fact that out of a total income of the year of \$242,552.19



only \$3,590.98 was obtained from the students' fees. I believe no tuition is exacted from Indian students. Payment of tuition at Hampton, I believe, exempts the students from the performance of routine manual toil which is exacted from all of the students at Carlisle, regardless of their age or the department of instruction in which they are enrolled.

Over a year ago, I made a close examination of the Hampton School in order to gain ideas and gather suggestions from the excellent work<sup>in</sup> which that school is engaged, and I learned, upon inquiry, from the officials that the partial pay system there in vogue is merely a matter of "bookkeeping". A number of clerks are maintained solely for the purpose of keeping the books connected with this system. It is certainly an excellent system, and could very easily be carried on at Carlisle, but it would necessitate the employment of several additional clerks and accountants, which is not now possible with the limited appropriation allowed by Congress.

An examination of my last Annual Report which has recently been sent to your Office shows what steps I have taken to show the production in some of the industrial departments, and the figures there given are certainly gratifying. If a careful statement was kept of all the work performed in connection with the school by the students, this amount would be very, very largely increased.

To sum up, FIRST: I do not recommend the charging of a tuition fee for students in Indian schools because, at the present time, after giving the matter general consideration, the question<sup>arises</sup> /



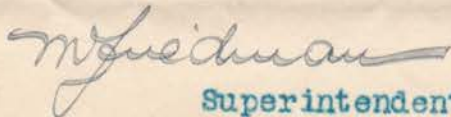
whether it would be exactly right to charge the Indians for an education which is generously provided for by Congressional appropriation, and to which they are entitled.

SECOND: If your Office decides to charge a tuition fee, the order should effect in the same way, and to the same degree, all non-reservation schools of the country, including Hampton.

THIRD: The devising of a partial pay system at Carlisle by means of the bookkeeping in vogue at Hampton would be desirable, but an additional appropriation would be necessary to meet the additional expense of salaries for extra clerks and accountants.

In the meantime, recognizing the excesses which are possible in connection with the enrollment of students and which have at one time or another been practiced in nearly every non-reservation school in the country, Carlisle included, an earnest effort will be made at this school to enroll only students who, it is thought, are eligible, and who are within the scope of the provisions now made for the education of Indians.

Very respectfully,

  
Superintendent.

MF/EFW

Education-  
Administration.  
59337-1909-6  
F I P  
Expulsion of  
Carlisle pupils.

AUG -5 1909

FOR FILE

Moses Friedman, Esq.,

Superintendent Carlisle Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

The Office has received your letter of July 24, asking authority to expel from the school Spencer Williams and Carl Sylvester, two special pupils.

The Office has no record of authority for the re-enrollment of these young men, who, it appears, are graduates of the school and both over-age.

The special courses, either industrial or academic must not be improperly used, and all the students who re-enter in order to avail themselves of these privileges should establish to you their worthiness before you accept them.

Applications for the admission of over-age pupils should show what courses they wish to take, their readiness to profit by such instruction and training, their age, tribe, residence, etc.

If these young men had a good record up to the time of graduation, it is greatly regretted that their school career should now end so ignominiously. Under the circumstances, however, your expulsion is approved, but it is not deemed

59337-09 Carlisle 821



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necessary, in view of their mature age, that other Superintendents be notified of their expulsion.

In this connection, please consider the advisability of charging a moderate tuition fee for graduates and over-age pupils who enter the business course; and a similar fee of those who enter for special industrial courses, unless, during the course of their training the products of their labor are of value to the school.

You are acquainted with the methods pursued at Hampton, and can probably devise some means of putting into operation at Carlisle a partial pay system similar to that used there, the purpose being to keep out of your school all but the persevering class.

When you have fully considered this subject, please set out your conclusions. in a letter to me.

Very respectfully,

*(Signed) F. H. Abbott,*

Acting Commissioner.

EmJ-31  
3667





## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL.

CARLISLE, PA.

## SUBJECT:

Requests  
authority for the  
expulsion of two pupils.

July 24th, 1909.

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

Sir:

Owing to continued misconduct and a gross defiance to the authorities at this school, it was found necessary to expel Spencer Williams and Carl Sylvester from this school in June, 1909.

The former is a member of the Seneca Tribe of New York State and the latter a member of the Gros Ventre Tribe.

I, therefore, respectfully request that authority be granted me for this expulsion and that I be authorized to notify the Superintendents of other non-reservation schools that these two young men may not be enrolled at any other Indian School.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Friedman".

Superintendent.

A large, stylized handwritten letter "E" in blue ink, located to the left of the initials "HKM".  
HKM.