

Jan. 23, 1910.

## Charles Kerime - Ex-pupil

A typical letter from a young Pueblo who was drawing a good salary in Gallup, N. M., was married and "well fixed," impresses one as showing that the education dispensed at Carlisle is far from being futile. The writer was one of the older students of the school. On his arrival in New Mexico in 1889 he found the Pueblos ploughing their land with home made ploughs, drawn by oxen with yokes strapped to their horns. No wagons were to be seen on the streets of the little Indian villages, and a few hand made carts with great, clumsy wheels were the only vehicles possessed by the Indians.

"Everything was primitive among my people when I returned to them," he wrote, "from the blankets they wore to the tools which they used in tilling the soil. At Carlisle one of the things that we were continually taught was that we were to make return to the government for giving us an education by doing our best to help

our people to profit by the knowledge that we had received. Sickness prevented my returning to Carlisle to finish my course, so when I got well some months after my companions had returned to the school I looked about me for a place.

"My father had neglected the farm for the ready cash that was to be got for shovelling coal for a contractor, so, taking a shovel, I joined my father. Soon I was able to handle the work in a way that allowed him to return to the farm, which was better for his health and better for the land that he owned. I took his position and worked hard until one day my employer gave me full charge of the coal station at Laguna. That offered the first opportunity for me to carry out my desire to do something for my people, and taking advantage of it I discharged the Mexicans and Italians, who were always dissatisfied, and hired Indians to take their places. They were a great improvement over the others, and this fact worked to my advantage as well as to theirs.

"The agent showed greater confidence in me than before, and not long afterward I was given charge of all the coaling stations from Albuquerque, N. M., to Bagdad, Cal. At all of these coaling stations I put Laguna Indians at work, procured transportation for their wives and children to points away from the reservation and told them I wanted them to do their best to justify my discharging foreigners and putting real Americans in their places.

"I continued to be on the lookout for every opportunity to give an Indian work whenever the chance came, and when later I opened the shops at Winslow, Ariz., I put fifty young Indians in the different departments, where they held positions from wiping engines to firing stationary and switch engines. The shops at Winslow were so successfully manned that I was given charge of the shops at Gallup, N. M., and there, too, I placed young and able bodied men at work and sent the old men back to work their small farms.

"The change that this brought about in the methods of living among the Indians was little short of wonderful, and shows truly the progress the Indian is capable of if he is given a chance. The crude plough and the ox cart are things of the past, and their places have been taken by farm wagons and fine steel ploughs, while an ox is as much a curiosity as a horse or a mule is a necessity. Modern implements have replaced the clumsy tools of home manufacture, and even the blanket has been cast aside for the garments of the white man. The money earned on the railroads has been put to the best use in developing farms and forward-

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Quere - N. Mex - student

RECORD OF GRADUATES AND RETURNED STUDENTS.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SCHOOL, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

Name

Charlie W. Kinnel

1. Are you married and if so to whom?

Yes. A Laguna girl

2. What is your present address?

Gallup. New Mexico

3. Did you attend or graduate from any other schools after leaving Carlisle? Give names of school and dates if possible.

No

4. What is your present occupation? Salary?

I am Head Car Inspector  
for the Santa Fe Ry. My salary is from  
\$85.00 to \$105.00 a month or 26 1/2¢ an hour

5. Do you own your home?

Yes

6. What kind of a house is it? Number of rooms?

Stone house. three Rooms

7. How much property do you possess?

Stock

Fifteen Cows & two horses

Land

Sixty acres



Real Estate

8. Do you have money in the bank? How much?

9. Have you been in the Indian Service? In what positions? How long in each?

No

10. What other positions have you held since leaving Carlisle? I only had two positions since I left Carlisle I was a Coal Contractor for the A.T. & P.F.R. & my present position

11. Have you done anything for the betterment of your people? Write fully.

I have done as much for my people as any paid Government Officer has done, I never graduated. I had a good chance to graduate I came home to visit my parents expecting to return back to Carlisle to finish my studies. While on my visit I took sick & the rest of my school mates left & went back to school, well I got well. The bigger job was before me, what shall I do? My father at that time was shoveling Coal for a Coal Contractor, about a week after I was able to be around I started in shovel in hand & helped my father after a while I was able to handle the work alone



That gave my father time to work in the fields. I gradually worked up. In time I was able to handle my father's position & his Employer position who was a white man. In a little while I was appointed to take full Charge of the Coal Station at Laguna. I hired all Indian laborers. My ability to handle the Coal Station proved good. Finally I was

12. Tell me anything else of interest connected with your life.

given all the Coaling Stations from Albuquerque to Bagdad Calif. I placed all Laguna Indians at these stations. Got free transportation for them & their wives & children & also their provisions. Italians & Mexicans were left to look for other work. It kept me busy, breaking in new hands, while I had this to do. I was still looking around for a chance to put an Indian to work, & I always found places for them. I opened up Winslow Ariz Rail Road Shops for them & had 50 young Indians working in all departments of the Shops, from wiping Engines to firing Stationery & Switch Engines. After I opened up Winslow & had things going in good shape, I opened up Gallup N. Mex. Shops for them. I had all the young & able bodied Indians working & give the old men at home to work their small farms. You don't have no idea what a change there was in all this time.





I did not get as much education<sup>(2)</sup> as some of our  
Pueblo boys & girls did. But I am glad I can hold up  
my end any-time & maybe a little more. I fought my  
way from the bottom & I am not ashamed to face any of  
them in my line. White, black or Red, I have followed  
Car Inspecting for nine years now. Of course I had to learn  
it too. It requires book learning, a person in my position  
has to be posted & learned in all lines about Cars &  
the Air-brakes. & their defects & remedies. As long as  
I have been here I have no record of any accident  
to any trains Inspected by me & my helper. I have  
had all white men for helpers. I was in San Bernardino  
California one year in 1907, & I was foreman there over the  
force of Inspectors & Coach Cleaners. We Inspect all trains  
Passenger & Freight. Well if I had time & space I would  
tell you a lot more. Education is the only salvation for the  
Red man to day. After that he must swim or drown.

When I arrived home in 1889 The Indians (Pueblo) were  
plowing their soil with home-made plows driven by ox teams  
with yoke strapped to their horns, no wagons to be seen on  
the streets. But you could see one or two old home-made carts  
with big clumsy wheels. The ox & the cart is of the past even  
our children today don't know what the old cart looks like  
nor have they any idea how the oxen worked, ~~now~~ & then  
only the well to do own them, the Paisanos & the Anillos.  
But now the <sup>best</sup> equipped parties are the ones who labor on  
the railroad. Farm wagons good harness & mules & horses have  
taken the place of the old cart & oxen. Farming implements  
of all kinds can be seen among the Pueblo Indian today.  
Even the blankets are thrown aside. Overcoats & other citizens  
clothes have taken place & has taken place to stay.  
It is only a matter of short time when the old Pueblo Indian  
will die out. Give the Indian a long rope & he will  
take care of himself. He can if he is given half of a shov



I am sorry I did not have any late Photos of myself or family  
I am afraid I may be delaying you, my daughter  
Lena Kie is at your school. also my step daughter  
Grace Kie, I was at Carlisle from 1884 to 1889.

With best wishes

Chas H. Kering (Kie)

P.S.

I am better known by Kie which is my  
father's name.

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NAME AT CARLISLE

Charles W. Kiriniec

PRESENT NAME