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Carson City Indian school.

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CARSON CITY INDIAN SCHOOL.

MARCH 17, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PERKINS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1103.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1103) to provide for an Indian school at Carson City, Nev., submit the following report:

The provisions of the bill are brief, and the propriety and necessity of the proposed legislation are fully shown by the accompanying correspondence of the Interior Department.

Your committee, however, is of the opinion that the location of the school should not be fixed in the bill, but that full discretion should be given to the Secretary of the Interior, and for such reason the committee recommend that the words "at Carson City" in the second line of the bill be stricken out, and, with such amendment, recommend the passage of the act.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 9, 1887.

H. M. YERINGTON, JEWETT W. ADAMS, and S. L. LEE,
Indian School Commission, Carson City, Nev.:

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your communication of the 31st of January last, inclosing copy of a recent enactment of the Nevada legislature providing for the establishment of an Indian school in that State.

I am gratified to see that Nevada manifests such an interest in the education of her Indians. The generous offer of a farm of 160 acres, and of \$10,000 for building purposes merits prompt acceptance by the Government. But I regret to say that the last session of Congress, instead of increasing, slightly reduced appropriations for Indian education, so that it will be with difficulty that school work *now in progress* can be properly continued during the coming fiscal year.

Therefore I would not be justified in saying at this time that *so soon* as your buildings are completed the office will furnish and open an Indian school therein. But I can say, and will do so, that if you desire to put up the building and to transfer the same with the land to the Indian Office, the office will accept it and will open a school therein for Indians of Nevada whenever a Government appropriation therefor shall have been obtained.

Meantime, if you desire it, the office will send a special agent to examine the location offered and to report upon its fitness for the purpose intended. Also the office can send you copies of plans which have been adopted for its school buildings, from which you will be able to gain an idea of the kind of buildings needed, and what will be the capacity of a building which \$10,000 will erect.

I hope that it may be possible to secure from the next session of Congress an appropriation for the support of this proposed Nevada school, and if it is made "immediately available" it may be possible to start the school within the next fiscal year.

Yours, respectfully,

A. B. UPshaw,
Acting Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 27, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of Hon. H. L. Dawes, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, transmitting copy of "A bill (S. 1103) to provide for an Indian school at Carson City, Nev.," referred to this office for report, and in relation thereto I have to respectfully advise you that during the past year correspondence was had with several gentlemen on the subject of establishing a school for the Indians of Nevada, and they were informed that it would be impossible for the Indian Office, with the appropriation then available, to establish such a school.

Inclosed herewith you will find a copy of a letter on this subject addressed to the school commissioner at Carson City, Nev., on April 9, 1887, which gives the views of this office on the subject at that time.

The establishment of a large industrial training-school for the Indians of Nevada is greatly needed, as they are almost without school accommodations. There is only one reservation boarding-school and one day school at present in operation.

The majority of the Indians in that State are not on any reservation, and are homeless wanderers. If a good school were put in operation many of the young Indians could be induced to attend and receive a course of instruction which would tend to make them useful and self-supporting citizens of the State.

I have examined the inclosed bill, and heartily agree with the object of it.

The letter of Hon. H. L. Dawes, with inclosure, is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 30, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt by this Department, on January 23, 1888, of your letter of the same date, inclosing bill (S. 1103) to provide for an Indian school at Carson City, Nev., with request that it be examined and reported back with my views and recommendations thereon.

In response thereto I transmit herewith a communication under date of the 27th instant, with its inclosures, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred for report, wherein he states that he heartily agrees with the object of the bill for the reason that the establishment of a large industrial training-school for the Indians of Nevada is greatly needed, as they are almost without school accommodations.

I beg to add further for the information of the committee, that the Indians, for whose benefit the proposed school would be maintained, if established and provided for, are those upon and in the vicinity of the reservations in Nevada under the jurisdiction of the Nevada and Western Shoshone Agencies, numbering in all about 8,000 Indians, among whom there are probably 1,200 children; of these, educational facilities are provided for only 180 pupils, 75 in a boarding school and 105 in day schools.

In the last annual report from both of those agencies it is stated that the existing schools have been filled to their utmost capacity, and that additional school accommodations are required. From the Nevada Agency eighteen of the more advanced pupils were sent to the Industrial School at Grand Junction, Colo., which the agent reports had a demoralizing effect upon their parents, who mourn for them as lost, or as they would the dead, and also upon the remaining pupils and upon their parents, who fear that their children will be sent away when they arrive at the same proficiency.

Particularly pertinent to the proposition now under consideration are the following remarks of the agent of the Nevada Agency, Nev.:

"I sincerely hope that success will crown the efforts of those who are taking an interest in having an appropriation made for the erection of a building and the establishment of an industrial training school in Carson City, or somewhere within the borders of this State, as I firmly believe it would prove the very best thing which could be done for the rising generation of aborigines of this State, and my opinion is

fortified by the action of the last State legislature in session, when it appropriated \$10,000 to be expended for that purpose. The Indians are praying for such a school, where children can be taught within their reach. * * * There are enough Pah-Ute children of school age to fill a half dozen school-houses, provided there was some means devised for collecting them and compelling their attendance at school."

There appears, therefore, to be no question of the need for increased school facilities for the Indians on and near the reservations in Nevada, and the condition and necessities of these people are such as to warrant the belief that their educational and industrial needs will require the fostering care of the Government for some time to come.

The estimated cost for establishing industrial training-schools for Indian educational purposes, erecting, furnishing, and equipping the necessary buildings, etc., (not including purchase of land), is found from bids offered for and from cost of work on those already established to be from \$200 to \$250 per pupil. The smaller the school the larger is the estimated cost per pupil. For \$50,000 an industrial training-school can probably be established at or in the vicinity of Carson City, Nev., that will accommodate two hundred and fifty or more Indian pupils, unless cost of material and labor is very much higher there than in other localities. The cost of maintaining such a school will not be less than \$175 per pupil per annum, the rate allowed for the schools at Chilocco, Ind. T., Salem, Oregon, Lawrence, Kans., and others (see 24 Stat., page 465).

The industrial training-school at Salem, Oregon, with capacity for two hundred pupils, is the only one yet established for the Indians on the Pacific coast. The Indians on that coast are mainly self-supporting, and the annual expenditures made for them are very small when compared with the large sums expended for many of the tribes and bands residing in the more easterly sections of the country.

As the successful cultivation of the soil in Nevada depends largely upon its proper irrigation, the Indian children residing therein should be trained to farm work in a school where the farming is done on irrigated land.

I therefore think that it is very desirable that such a school should be established somewhere in the locality indicated in the bill under consideration.

The bill should, however, in my opinion, be so amended as to leave it to the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior whether any land or other donation made for the purpose of the school by the State of Nevada, or otherwise, shall be accepted and used therefor, so that the suitability of location or proposed advantages shall be within departmental determination.

Very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
United States Senate.

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