Establishment of an Indian School
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 24, 1890.—Presented by Mr. Pettigrew, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed; to accompany amendment to H. R. 10736.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AT FLANDREAU, SOUTH DAKOTA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 6, 1890.

SIR: This Department is in receipt, by reference of 22d ultimo, from your committee, for examination and report, of S. 2167, "To provide for building and maintaining an Indian Industrial School at Flandreau, in the State of South Dakota."

In response thereto I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of communication of 29th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred, in which, after a brief discussion of the advantages to be derived from the establishment of a school at Flandreau, he expresses the opinion that the school service will be greatly benefited by the passage of Senate bill No. 2167.

The bill is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

J. W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 29, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 22, inclosing copy of Senator Pettigrew's bill to provide for building and maintaining an Indian Industrial School at Flandreau, in the State of South Dakota, and appropriating for the purpose $50,000, introduced in the Senate January 20, 1890, and referred by the honorable Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to the Department of the Interior for examination and report.

The Flandreau Indians in South Dakota have long since taken their lands in severalty, and are an industrious and fairly prosperous community, citizens of the new State, and a part of its civilization, exercising the franchise with a good degree of intelligence and appreciating its importance.

Flandreau is conveniently situated with reference to the great Sioux Reservations west of the Missouri River and the Sisseton Reservation
on Lake Traverse. It will therefore be a good location for an industrial school, inasmuch as it will be in the same climate as the Sioux Reservations, and at no great distance therefrom, but far enough away to escape the demoralizing influences of the example of the older Indians on the reservation.

A school located at Flandreau, and properly conducted, will have many of the advantages now obtaining at the large Eastern schools, with few of the disadvantages alleged against the latter schools by the advocates of reservation schools.

The example of the Flandreau Indians tilling the soil, living in houses, and engaged in all the pursuits of civilized life, would be an object-lesson to the pupils from the reservation tribes of great value.

I would therefore respectfully state, in my opinion, the school service will be greatly benefited by the passage of Senate bill No. 2167.

Very respectfully,

T. J. Morgan, Commissioner.

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak., March 17, 1890.

My Dear Mr. Pettigrew: Permit me to write a few lines in the interest of the Indian boarding-school which has been proposed for the town of Flandreau.

(a) The town is one of the best situated in South Dakota.
(b) The country is not excelled in productiveness by any part of the State.
(c) There is an Indian population in the county of several hundred.
(d) The town is easy of access from the Sisseton Reserve on the north and from the great Sioux Reserve on the west.
(e) There is already a nucleus of an enterprise of the kind now advocated in an Indian day-school which has been conducted by the United States in the town of Flandreau for many years.
(f) The relations of the white people and the Indians in the country have been mutually satisfactory.

In view of these facts, and of others which might be mentioned, I think the establishment of an Indian industrial boarding-school in Flandreau very desirable.

Yours, very truly,

W. H. Harr, Missionary Bishop.

We, the undersigned, head-men and members of the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Indians, residents of South Dakota, do hereby petition that the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs do recommend that the present Congress establish an industrial school for the education of the Indians at Flandreau, S. Dak.

We make this petition because we fully believe that the best interests of education among the Sioux Indians in this manner will be advanced by establishing a school in a locality where all the Indians have become civilized and Christianized, and thus will exercise the most powerful influence for good among our people: