

2-24-1890

Establishment of an Indian School

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Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 1407, 51st Cong., 1st Sess. (1890)

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 24, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany his amendment of June 21, 1890, to H. R. 10726.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred an amendment to the bill (H. R. 10726) making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the year ending June 30, 1891, and for other purposes, have given the same full and careful consideration and beg leave to report as follows:

This amendment provides for establishing an Indian industrial school at Flandreau, in the State of South Dakota. In this State there are located over 25,000 Sioux Indians upon various reservations, having a school population of over 6,000 Indian children. There is but one industrial school in the State, located at Pierre, which has a capacity of educating about 250 of these children. Greater school facilities for the Indians of Dakota seem to be an imperative necessity.

The location indicated in this bill is one that is accessible to all the different reservations and is in a community of American farmers, while in the immediate vicinity there are over eighty families of Sioux Indians who are citizens of the United States and are tilling the soil.

The accompanying letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recommending the location of this school at this point, and also a letter of the Secretary of the Interior Department, are submitted herewith; also a petition from the Sioux Indians located upon the Sisseton Reservation and a letter from Rev. W. H. Hare, Episcopal bishop for the State of South Dakota, who for very many years was a missionary among these Indians. For these reasons the adoption of this amendment is recommended.

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 obtained 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.