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Letter from the acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting letter of Secretary of the Interior relative to improvement of the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pa.

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LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Letter of Secretary of the Interior relative to improvement of the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pa.

JUNE 29, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *June 28, 1886.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of letter of the Secretary of the Interior of this date, and inclosures, submitting an estimate of appropriation in the sum of \$37,500 for the improvement and enlargement of the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pa.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. JOHN SHERMAN,
President of the Senate pro tempore.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, June 28, 1886.

SIR: In pursuance of the provisions of section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (23 Stat., 254), I have the honor to transmit herewith for presentation to Congress copy of a letter of 26th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing an item of appropriation in the sum of \$37,500 for the improvement and enlargement of the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pa., which he recommends for insertion in the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The accompanying letter of Superintendent Pratt, relative to the matter, shows in detail the objects to be attained by the appropriation asked for. The matter has the approval of this Department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 26, 1886.

SIR: I am in receipt of a letter from Capt. R. H. Pratt, superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School, dated the 19th instant, in which he states that, to obtain the highest efficiency in his school, certain additions and improvements are imperatively demanded, and submitting a statement of what he thinks necessary, with the request that, if his suggestions are approved, the case may be presented to Congress with a view of securing the necessary appropriations.

He states that his school farm of 157 acres is not sufficient, and recommends the purchase of what is known as the "Parker Farm," at a cost of \$18,000. For the erection of a barn 125 by 50 he asks \$4,500, and for constructing a new boys' dormitory and making other improvements he wants \$15,000, or a total appropriation of \$37,500.

The letter of Captain Pratt, a copy of which is herewith inclosed, states in detail how he expects to proceed, with the aid of the pupils, to make the improvements, which, when made, will enable him to care for five hundred pupils at the school, and, in addition, keep out in families, on farms, and in public schools of the State, three hundred more.

In compliance with your request for recommendation, I have the honor to state that if it is the policy of the Department and of Congress to enlarge the Carlisle school in order to care for more pupils than it can at present accommodate, or to continue said school for a number of years as an Indian Industrial School, the amount asked for by Captain Pratt for improvements and repairs should be granted; and for that purpose I inclose herewith an item making an appropriation of \$37,500, with the request that it be forwarded to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate, to be inserted in the sundry civil bill, now under consideration.

Very respectfully,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Item to be inserted in the sundry civil bill.

That the sum of \$37,500 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purchase of a school farm and the repair of old and the erection of new buildings and out-houses for the Indian Industrial School at Carlisle, Pa., to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
Carlisle, Pa., June 19, 1886.

SIR: In my judgment to obtain the highest efficiency in this school certain additions and improvements are imperatively demanded now, and I respectfully present to you the following statement of what I think necessary, with the methods and expense of accomplishing the same, and the request that if you approve, it may be presented to Congress with a view to securing the necessary appropriation therefor.

First. The school farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres is not at all sufficient to produce the needed forage and other products and afford the range for stock required in so large an establishment; nor does it give sufficient scope for the routine instruction in agriculture of our three hundred boys, and being 3 miles away it is not near as effective as it could be made if adjoining.

I am now able to buy the Parker farm, which bounds our property on the east, and is best adapted for our uses. It can be obtained for \$18,000. It naturally drops in as

a part of the Government property and furnishes an outlet to the public road on two sides, an advantage never before possessed by the Government. It has one of the best and largest springs in the county, and running water along the whole west side. The buildings are a farm house of brick, commodious and well built, a good stone barn, and a frame tenant house. The property contains 109.57 acres, and is worth the money asked.

Second. A school barn is needed, which shall be large enough (125 by 50 feet) to store all farm products and stall 40 cows and the draft animals needed at the school. This should be of brick and stone and by using school labor can be built for \$4,500.

Third. The present large boys' dormitories, a building 250 by 24 feet, two stories, was first built in 1835 and 1836; having been destroyed by fire it was rebuilt in 1864 and 1865, and the same walls used. It is in such a condition as to constantly need repair. It is divided into six rooms on each floor and each room entered only by one door and that from the outside. We are thus compelled to place eighteen to twenty boys in each room, and I find the task of teaching individuality, neatness, and even decency, almost as difficult as it would be in their native tepees. I propose to take this building down carefully and with the old material and such new material as may be necessary, construct a new building 250 by 34 feet, three stories high, each story divided by a hall the full length, and the division so made as to give 92 sleeping rooms, each room having a door and transom opening into the hall and two outside windows, and a clothes closet; a part of the lower floor to be used for an assembly room large enough to hold all the boys in the building, and also a clothing-room and a bath-room. This building I can construct in the manner described for \$15,000, by using student labor. I propose that the students shall make 200,000 of the brick required, and already have 100,000 dried and stacked in the kiln ready to burn. The wood to burn the same has been cut by them and is now being hauled.

The three wants, as above explained and described, will require a total appropriation of \$37,500, and I am persuaded that with the sanction of the Department it will be given, as quite a number of the members Indian and Appropriation Committees of both Houses have visited the school, and have expressed themselves most favorably towards it.

I deem it proper in this connection to say that in addition to these helps, which I shall so largely accomplish with student labor, I shall, if you approve, undertake to build a brick chapel, two stories, 45 by 75 feet. The lower floor for two additional school rooms, and the upper floor for chapel and general assemblies. The present chapel is not more than one-half as large as our needs, and can be utilized as a library and reading-room for the boys. This I propose to accomplish entirely by the aid of friends of the school, who stand ready to co-operate with the Government in the work. It will cost from \$6,000 to \$7,000.

The small boys' dormitory also needs a general overhauling, and the girls' building should be enlarged by an addition of 45 feet to one end, and the inside re-arranged. These changes and improvements I can make on the means already furnished by Congress, and such outside help in addition as may be needed.

These several changes and additions being effected, we can well care for 500 pupils at the school, and in addition we can keep out in families and on farms and attending the public schools of the State 300 more.

The school would then, I think, be as large as good administration and sanitation would allow.

Trusting that with your indorsement and encouragement the subject may get promptly before Congress, to the end that I may be able to secure the proposed improvements this summer,

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. H. PRATT,
Captain and Superintendent.

Hon. J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.