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Indian school at Fort Shaw, Mont. Letter from the Acting Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of the appropriation necessary for the support of the Indian school at Fort Shaw, Mont., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895.

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INDIAN SCHOOL AT FORT SHAW, MONT.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of the appropriation necessary for the support of the Indian school at Fort Shaw, Mont., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895.

APRIL 5, 1894.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 31, 1894.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, an estimate of appropriation submitted by the Secretary of the Interior on the 29th instant, for the support of the Indian school at Fort Shaw, Mont., for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, \$62,250, this school being now maintained out of the general school appropriation.

Respectfully, yours,

W. E. CURTIS,
Acting Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 5, 1894.

SIR: I have the honor to recommend that the Congress be requested to insert the following item of appropriation in the estimates for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, viz:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Support of Indian school, Fort Shaw, Mont.: | |
| Support of 250 Indian pupils, at \$167 per annum each, at Indian school, Fort Shaw, Mont | \$41,750 |
| Pay of superintendent at said school | 1,500 |
| Repairs of buildings | 12,000 |
| Fences, farm implements, seed, etc | 2,000 |
| Irrigation ditches, laterals, etc | 5,000 |

In support of this estimate I inclose copies of letters of Hon. T. C. Power, U. S. Senator from the State of Montana, giving reasons for enlarged school facilities at this point and urging that a separate appropriation be made for its support. There are also herewith inclosed copies of two petitions signed by citizens of the town of Great Falls and the county of Cascade, Mont., and addressed to Senator Power, setting forth the advantages to be gained by increasing the facilities for the education of the Indian youth at this school.

I would add in this connection that no special provision is contained in the act making appropriations for the Indian service for the current fiscal year for the support of this school, it being maintained out of the general school appropriation.

Very respectfully,

D. M. BROWNING,
Commissioner.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, *March 29, 1894.*

Respectfully forwarded through the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, with the recommendation that it receive the favorable consideration of Congress.

HOKE SMITH,
Secretary.

U. S. SENATE,
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1893.

SIR: Please do not fail to present estimates for the Fort Shaw Indian agricultural school. There are over 200 scholars, I understand, now in attendance. You should estimate for 250, at \$167 each. You should also estimate for the repairs of the buildings, \$12,000 at least, and for the building of fences and buying farm implements, seed, etc., \$2,000. For irrigating ditch, \$5,000. This request is made hurriedly, and not full, as many other things necessary for the beginning of this great enterprise are not covered. Montana has six large Indian agencies. The children from these agencies should be taught the knowledge of agriculture at this Fort Shaw school. My intention is, with your cooperation, to make this a large and valuable institution to the Indians in the Northwest.

Inclosed find copy of my letter, August 20, on this subject.

Yours, very respectfully,

T. C. POWER.

Hon. DANIEL M. BROWNING,
Commissioner Indian Affairs.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 250 scholars, at \$167 | \$41, 750 |
| Repairs of buildings | 12, 000 |
| Fences, farm implements, seed, etc | 2, 000 |
| Irrigating ditches, laterals, etc | 5, 000 |
| Superintendent's salary | 1, 500 |
| Total | 62, 250 |

AUGUST 30, 1893.

MY DEAR SIR: Inclosed find two petitions signed by the best citizens of Great Falls and Cascade County. The request in petition is stated on facts. The present Fort Shaw location, which consists of the old military post of Fort Shaw, is a property that is worth, under low valuation, together with the land that has been selected for the school, about \$200,000. The buildings could not be put up at this time for that amount of money. The buildings are in good condition, and everything about the school is in fair condition. (Kindly have reports on this property, before acceptance, carefully examined.) One hundred and seventy-six students attended last year, and I was informed by the superintendent, when in Montana, that he could easily

secure 200, at least, this year. The object of this school, Mr. Commissioner, is industrial. The Indians in Montana do not like to send their children East, and it was my intention and the intention of everyone connected with the Fort Shaw school to make it an industrial school where boys and girls could learn trades and be encouraged in working at their trades. A very considerable amount of money has been spent on this location now, and with a little more expenditure the place could be made self-sustaining. The enlarging of a ditch that was used by the Fort Shaw military would bring water on the ground, and in that way enable the superintendent of the school to raise everything necessary for the sustenance of the scholars, including the very large expense for beef that is always incurred at such institutions. It never has been my intention, or, I believe, the intention of the Indian school board that this Fort Shaw School should interfere with any of the agency schools or contract schools in the State of Montana.

You can ascertain for your information how many Indians we have in Montana. It is, I believe, the second largest State in number, and on this account we will need good schools—schools that will finish the Indian children in their education. Fort Shaw is located in one of the most pleasant valleys in the whole northwest, as well as the most healthy. It is the garden spot of Montana.

Kindly consider carefully before undertaking to abandon this school; have the whole question investigated thoroughly for yourself. As I said before, I do not want to interfere with agency schools. I am the friend of those, also contract schools, and to bring about the success of the different schools on the six Indian agencies in Montana, the Fort Shaw school, as originally designed, would, in my opinion, and I believe in the opinion of every one that is interested in the complete and successful education of Indian children, be an absolute necessity. I would, further, respectfully state that an appropriation was obtained last year for this school. I have a letter here from the Indian Department, stating that so much money would be expended on this school. This was brought about when I asked the Indian Office if a separate appropriation was necessary for the Fort Shaw school. Kindly refer to this correspondence.

Yours respectfully,

T. C. POWER.

Hon. DANIEL M. BROWNING,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

CASCADE COUNTY, MONT.

SIR: We the undersigned voters of Cascade County request that you do all in your power to secure a liberal appropriation for the support of Fort Shaw Indian school. The advantage of the school is so great that it can become one of the best. The work it has begun is going to remove a heavy load from this part of the country, by making self-supporting men and women in place of paupers. We ask that you show this to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and get his cooperation in the work of establishing a first-class industrial school.

B. A. ROBERTSON.
JAS. C. ADAMS.
J. L. FRASER.
JOHN KURCER.
ZELL YOUNG.
PRESLEY B. FOX.
ANTHONY KOCHER.
CHAS. O. MERRILL.
J. E. FREEMAN.
A. W. DELANG.
JOHN SARGENT.
C. B. WICKS.
J. H. LYNCH.
R. H. SURAIN.
DAVID DAVIS.
B. W. MURRAY.
J. S. ROWLES.
M. FURNELL.
W. J. PRANTON.
N. E. PRICE.
FRANK STAPLEN.
FRANK MOBLEY.

Hon. T. C. POWER,
Washington, D. C.

CASCADE COUNTY, MONT.

SIR: We, the undersigned voters of Cascade County, request that you do all in your power to secure a liberal appropriation for the support of Fort Shaw Indian School. The advantage of the school is so great that it can become one of the best. The work it has begun is going to remove a heavy load from this part of the country, by making self-supporting men and women in place of paupers. We ask that you show this to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and get his cooperation in the work of establishing a first-class industrial school.

R. S. FORD.
BACH, CORY & Co.
LANSING S. WEUS.
GREAT FALLS MEAT Co.
H. P. BROWN.
MURPHY, MACLAY & Co.
JOHN T. ATHEY.
GEORGE HELDT.
ERNEST CRUTCHER.
WILLIAM ROBERTS.
FRANK COOMBS.
IRA MYERS.
WILLIAM G. DOWNING.
KYLE PRICE.
MATHEW DUNN.
GEORGE KINGSBURY.
F. S. ATKINSON.

Hon. T. C. POWER,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 8, 1894.

SIR: I am directed by the Secretary to request such information from your office as will enable him to determine what action should be taken in the matter of your recommendation that Congress should insert in the estimates for the Indian service, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, the items mentioned in your letter of the 5th instant.

He would like information as to the amount expended last year, the estimated expenses for the current year, the number of pupils for last year and number now in attendance, the prospect for an increase in the attendance, the necessity for additional facilities, which should include a statement of the tribes from which scholars would be drawn, the number, character, and approximate cost of the buildings now in use, and such other information as will, in your opinion, aid him in the consideration of this matter.

Very respectfully,

W. C. POLLOCK,
Chief Indian Division.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Fort Shaw Indian school. Year ending June 30, 1893.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Capacity | 200 |
| Enrollment | 171 |
| Average attendance | 136 |

PRESENT YEAR.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Capacity | 250 |
| Enrollment | 231 |
| Average attendance | 216 |

Tribes.—Assinaboin, Piegan, Crow, Yankton Sioux, Cheyenne.

The cost per capita for the last fiscal year was, approximately, \$200, exclusive of stock cattle and repairs. You will see from the recommendations of January 5 that the estimate is for 250 pupils at \$167 per capita. The school farm contains 4,999½ acres, and is well situated for cultivation by irrigation and also for stock raising, which should be the principal industry. By increasing the capacity to 250 the

cost per capita is materially reduced, and by working the farm and raising stock this school should soon be on a self-supporting basis. There would be no trouble at all in filling the school to its capacity, as there are many Indians of the tribes stated above now without proper school facilities.

F. T. PALMER,
Chief of Education Division.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 9, 1894.

The amount expended for Fort Shaw school, Montana, for all purposes (except irrigation) for the fiscal year 1893 was, in round numbers, \$35,000. Though not exact, these figures represent sufficiently for all practical purposes the total expenditure.

The expenses of the school for all purposes (except irrigation) for the fiscal year 1894 will, it is estimated, approximate \$40,000.

From the superintendent's last report on file it appears there are altogether 25 buildings, big and little, mostly one story and none over one story and attic. Fifteen are adobe, 2 stone, and 8 frame. The main building is a one story adobe building, 33 by 83, with T (dining room), 28 by 60, and L, 20 by 28 (kitchen), containing 12 rooms. The condition of 15 of the buildings, including the main building, is described as fair, 8 poor, and 2 very poor. These buildings formerly belonged to the military and were turned over to the Indian Department, and it is therefore impossible to give the cost.

S. E. SLATER,
Chief of Finance Division.