

DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF INDIAN
SCHOOLS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with inclosure, and recommending the removal of certain restrictions upon the disbursement of funds appropriated for the support of Indian schools.

DECEMBER 16, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 12, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith copy of a report of 10th instant, with inclosure, noted therein, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, setting forth the embarrassment to the service growing out of the provision in the law requiring that the appropriation for the support of the Indian industrial school at Lawrence, Kans. (\$60,000), shall be disbursed upon the basis of an allowance of not exceeding \$175, for the support and education of each scholar (Pamph. Ed. U. S. Stat., Forty-eighth Congress, first session, page 92.)

This school has recently been opened. The first cost of equipping and fitting such a school for operation is much greater than will be required to maintain it after it is once properly inaugurated.

In view of the increased expenditures necessarily required at the opening of this school, the Commissioner submits an item, which he recommends be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill for the ensuing year, removing the restriction upon the appropriation designated as to the sum allowed to be expended for the support and education of each scholar for the current year.

As this will relieve present embarrassment and enable the Department to continue this school in successful operation without additional appropriation of money for the present fiscal year, I concur in the Commissioner's recommendation, and submit the matter to the favorable action of the Congress.

I will add, that a similar request was made in the cases of the Chillico and Genoa Indian industrial schools regarding the appropriation made for the first year for said schools, and the matter was favorably

acted upon by the Congress, as will appear by the concluding portions of the clauses making appropriations for said schools (see Pamph. Ed. U. S. Stat., pp. 91 and 92).

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs further recommends, in the report herewith presented, that the restriction in the law establishing the Chilocco Indian industrial school in the Indian Territory (22 Stat., 85) which provides for the instruction therein in the English language and industrial pursuits of "the children of such of the Indian tribes located in the Indian Territory as are least provided for under existing treaties and laws" may be removed, so as to allow the pupils to be selected also from the various Indian agencies outside of the Indian Territory, and he states his reasons therefor as follows:

It has been found that the proximity of this school to their homes tempts the children to run away whenever they happen to be homesick or dissatisfied.

The discipline and value of this school would be promoted by adding pupils from other tribes to those from the Indian Territory.

Moreover, thousands of children in New Mexico, Arizona, and other adjacent Territories are in sore need of school facilities.

The Commissioner submits draft of a clause amendatory of the law as recommended by him, and, concurring in his views, the matter is respectfully presented for the consideration of the Congress.

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 10, 1884.

SIR: I respectfully forward herewith communication of the 1st instant, from Superintendent Marvin, in which he refers to the impracticability of maintaining the Lawrence school during the current fiscal year on the allowance per pupil made by Congress, viz, one hundred and seventy-five dollars per annum. The school was not ready to open until the first of September. Pupils had to be obtained gradually, and it will be near the close of the fiscal year before the full quota of pupils can be obtained. Meantime furniture, clothing, implements, &c., for the whole number must be provided, and large expenditures must be and have been made for heating-apparatus, cisterns, and other permanent improvements, which necessarily make the cost of starting the school much greater than the mere cost of continuing it after it is fairly established and equipped.

I therefore respectfully recommend that Congress be asked, at its present session, to remove the restriction which limits the expenditure at the Lawrence school during the current fiscal year to a certain amount per pupil. Similar relief was given the Genoa and Chilocco schools last year, which was their first year.

The location of the Chilocco school "in the Indian Territory, adjacent to the southern boundary of the State of Kansas," was established by Congress in the Indian appropriation act of May 17, 1882, with the further provision that the pupils therein should be "children of * * * the Indian tribes located in the Indian Territory."

It has been found that the proximity of this school to their homes tempts the children to run away whenever they happen to be homesick or dissatisfied.

The discipline and value of the school would be promoted by adding pupils from other tribes to those from the Indian Territory.

Moreover thousands of children in New Mexico, Arizona, and other adjacent Territories are in sore need of school facilities.

I respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to remove the above-named restriction.

I inclose herewith paragraph embodying above recommendations, and recommend that it be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill for the next fiscal year.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
Lawrence, Kans., December 1, 1884.

DEAR SIR: Our school opened on September 1 with fourteen pupils. We have increased that number as rapidly as possible, until at this writing our enrollment is two hundred and eighteen, with a fair prospect of three hundred by the 1st of January. On the 10th of July last the buildings were received from the contractor, but not in a condition for occupancy. The sinks, pumps, and other kitchen arrangements, the store-rooms, bath-rooms, drainage, and various similar necessities required attention. These things, and the putting in of the heating apparatus, have all been done with as much speed and cheapness as practicable.

Many of the supplies purchased are of such a nature that they may be carried over into next year; such are all tools for blacksmith and carpenter shops, leather and iron stock for shoemaking and blacksmithing, much of the bedding and house-furnishing.

With the extra expenses unavoidable in opening a new institution, I do not see how it will be possible for me to come within the allowance of \$175 per capita if the Treasury Department insists upon the ruling that the average attendance for the entire year shall be the basis of disbursement, unless at the close of this year I may receive credit for supplies to be carried over, and their value be deducted from this year's appropriation.

Further it seems to me that permanent improvements necessary to prepare the buildings for occupancy ought not to be counted as current expenses and taken from the allowance of \$175 per pupil. One amount of \$1,200, transmitted August 22, 1884, is charged to current support, 1885, but used for putting in heating apparatus. Another, received November 29, 1884, of \$650, charged to the same account, is used for putting in a cistern to supply boiler-house. Other smaller expenditures are of the same nature. Cannot these expenditures be balanced by an appropriation from some other fund?

Respectfully,

JAMES MARVIN,
Superintendent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

Paragraph to be inserted in act making appropriations for the Indian service for the year ending June 30, 1886, after the clause making appropriation for the support of the Indian School at Lawrence Kans.

And the limitation imposed upon the appropriation for this school for the fiscal year 1885 in the act approved July 4, 1884, is hereby repealed.

Paragraph to be inserted in act making appropriations for the Indian service for the year ending June 30, 1886, after the clause making appropriation for the support of the Indian School at Genoa, Nebr.

And children from any Indian tribes except the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory may be admitted to this school.