
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 18, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 697.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs to whom was referred the bill (S. 697) to provide for building an Indian industrial school at or near Chamberlain, in the State of South Dakota, and at or near Rapid City, in the State of South Dakota, and to provide a farm in conjunction therewith, have had the same under consideration and report the same with an amendment.

The urgent necessity for building these schools is shown by the letters of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs which are hereto appended. There are 1,400 Indian children in South Dakota residing upon reservations for which no school facilities have been furnished, yet these Indians by act of Congress will soon become citizens of the United States and voters in the State of South Dakota. For this reason Congress owes it to the people of South Dakota to provide means for educating every Indian child.

Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by adding the following as a proviso to the last section of the bill:

Provided, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized at his discretion to purchase at a reasonable price such building or buildings already erected, as may be suitable for the purpose of the institution herein provided for.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 5, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 25th ultimo, transmitting, for the views of the Department, S. 697, "A bill to provide for building an Indian industrial school at or near Chamberlain, in the State of South Dakota, and at or near Rapid City, in the State of South Dakota, and to provide a farm in conjunction therewith."

In response I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 4th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom the matter was referred.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 4, 1892.

SIR: I am in receipt, by Department reference, of a communication from Hon. H. L. Dawes, chairman Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, inclosing Senate bill 697, entitled, "A bill to provide for building and maintaining an Indian industrial school at or near Chamberlain, in the State of South Dakota, and at or near Rapid City, in the State of South Dakota, and to provide a farm in conjunction therewith."

In reply, allow me to say that during the past twelve months, especially, a great deal of attention has been given by this office to the development of a suitable school system for the Indians of North and South Dakota.

In order to have all available information at hand, Dr. Daniel Dorchester, superintendent of Indian schools, spent a number of months in the Dakotas making a careful study of the situation with reference to education, and submitted to this office in his annual report an elaborate discussion of the question. On page 507 of the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1891, Supt. Dorchester presents a table showing at each agency in South Dakota the number of children of school age, capacity of the reservation schools, number of children enrolled in those schools, number of children in school outside of the agencies, and the children not in any school.

From this table it appears that there are, in connection with the agencies in South Dakota, an aggregate of something more than 1,400 children of school age not now enrolled in any school, and for whom no school provision has been made.

The practical question for this office to consider is: What is the best means of providing school accomodation for these 1,400 children?

New boarding schools are now in process of establishment on the Cheyenne River Reservation, on the Rosebud Reservation, at Pipestone, Minnesota, and at Flandreau, South Dakota. The boarding school on the Pine Ridge Reservation is to be enlarged, and the day schools on both the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations are to be increased in number and capacity.

When all of these shall have been done, I estimate that there will remain very nearly, if not quite, one thousand children connected with the Indian agencies in South Dakota for whom no school provision will have been made.

Shall we attempt to provide for these by increasing the number and capacity of the day schools, by increasing the number and capacity of the reservation boarding schools, by increasing the capacity of nonreservation boarding schools, by establishing new nonreservation schools; or shall it be a combination of these?

As at present advised, I am inclined to think that possibly, except on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations, the number of day schools is about sufficient for the present. From the best information I have been able to obtain, I think that the work of civilizing, educating, and preparing these children for self-supporting citizenship is accomplished very much more quickly and satisfactorily through boarding schools than it is through day schools, and while I am disposed to encourage the day schools that now exist on these reservations, and to improve their quality, as well as to establish in some exceptional instances a few others, I doubt the wisdom at this time of depending too largely upon them.

Is it, then, wise to increase the number of reservation boarding schools? I am inclined at present to say no, with the exception of the completion of those already projected for Cheyenne River and Rosebud. I think that whatever money is to be devoted to reservation boarding schools should be used in enlarging the capacity and in increasing the industrial work done at those already in existence or in process of establishment.

Is it wise, then, to build new nonreservation schools? If so, where? The cost of establishing a new school is very large, as I have shown on pages 60 to 63 of my annual report. Proper accommodations for 100 pupils can not be made for much, if any, less than \$50,000. It is very much cheaper to enlarge existing schools, and thus provide for 100 additional pupils, than it is to establish a new school; and I am strongly inclined also to the belief that a school, for instance, of 300 or even 400 is, on the whole, better than a school of 100 or even 200.

In general, therefore, it seems to me wiser to increase the capacity of the smaller schools already well established than to found new institutions. Such being the case, instead of establishing a new school at Chamberlain, would it not be better to enlarge the capacity of the nonreservation schools at Pierre, Pipe Stone, and Flandreau? At the same time, it should be borne in mind that, according to the table of Superintendent Dorchester, already cited, there are on the Rosebud Reservation alone 1,500 children of school age, for 862 of whom no provision has been made; that even after the completion of the boarding school now projected for Rosebud, and even if the capacity of the schools at Pierre, Pipe Stone, and Flandreau should be doubled, there would still remain hundreds of children on the Rosebud Reservation out of school and for whom no school privileges have been provided. If Congress is willing to make provision at once for the proper education of all Sioux

children, it might be well to both enlarge existing nonreservation schools and establish a new one at Chamberlain too.

With reference to the proposed school at Rapid City this may be said, that it would be particularly convenient for the Indians residing on the Pine Ridge Reservation. There is one boarding school in operation on that reservation which is practically filled, and there is a school at Genoa, Nebr., patronized by the Indians on Pine Ridge, which, however, is at present filled to its utmost capacity. There is, therefore, at present no suitable boarding school easily accessible to those Indians where their children can be sent, unless, indeed, they should be sent to Carlisle, Pa. It will be possible, I think, to increase the attendance at Carlisle next year from 800, the present number, to 1,000 without adding materially to the cost of the maintenance of the school. The buildings at present will be ample for that purpose, and by the aid of the outing system, that number can be easily cared for, but even if 200 should be taken from Pine Ridge to Carlisle there would still remain nearly 150 unprovided for. Owing partly, at least, to the unsettled condition of matters at Pine Ridge, the Indians have been loth to put their children in school, especially in schools off the reservation. They want them at home. It has been difficult to keep the agency boarding school filled, and still harder to get children for Genoa. Indeed, children have been brought to Genoa from distant reservations.

I hope, however, that a better state will prevail at Pine Ridge regarding school attendance. I have reason to believe that the school at Rapid City would be attractive to Indians, both at Pine Ridge and Rosebud, and could be rapidly filled even without compulsion.

The establishment of a boarding school at Rapid City in addition to providing for the education of 100 Indian children would serve the very useful purpose of awakening a local interest on the part of the citizens of that portion of South Dakota in the education of their neighbors, the Sioux Indians of Pine Ridge.

There is also this consideration, which I think should have weight in this matter: About two years ago Bishop Hare began the erection, at a point about a mile from Rapid City, S. Dak., of an excellent building for school purposes, in which it was his intention when completed to conduct an Indian school under contract with this office. When the building was completed, however, in the late winter or early spring of the past year, this office was unable to execute a contract with him for the education of Indian children in the building, owing to the expressed wish of the President and the policy of this office not to make contracts for new schools with religious denominations.

As Bishop Hare was unable, owing to the condition of the finances which it was his purpose to make use of in connection with the proposed school, to undertake the establishment of it without such support from this office as he would have gained by means of a contract, he was obliged to forego the fulfillment of his purpose. We considered a proposition to rent the building, but were unable to consummate it, because of the discovery that it would be necessary to expend a considerable sum of money upon permanent improvements. This money Bishop Hare could not furnish, and the office was unable to expend it, as it is contrary to law to make an expenditure of money for permanent improvements upon property not owned by the Government. Bishop Hare now comes forward with a proposition to sell to the Government the property with all permanent improvements thereon. He has no legal claim upon the Government by reason of which this office would feel obliged to take the property off his hands, yet he erected the building with the understanding that a contract would be given him for the education of Indian children therein, and it is well adapted for the use of an Indian school. The building is constructed of the best material, with excellent workmanship, finely finished, and has a great many conveniences which the ordinary school building erected by the Government does not contain.

I think it would be a wise expenditure of money to purchase this building and the necessary ground and establish a boarding school at that point. To do this, section 2 of the bill will have to be modified so as to authorize the Secretary of the Interior in his discretion to purchase those buildings.

I would suggest, therefore, the addition to section 2 of the following proviso: "Provided, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby, authorized at his discretion to purchase at a reasonable price such building or buildings already erected as may be suitable for the purposes of the institution herein provided for."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.