

Portland Oregon, Dec. 4, 1884

Hon. H. Rice

U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir

Your letter of Sept 27th was sent to Forest Grove and remailed to me here, but I did not see or know of it until Hon. M. C. George loaned me his copy Oct. 20th. The original was found two weeks ago with a package of papers laid aside during my absence.

This has occasioned some delay.

I was at Forest Grove today. I am informed that the deed of twenty three acres adjoining the four or five acres ^{owned} ~~owned~~ and occupied by the U. S. Industrial School has been made and sent to the Department of the Interior, and that seventy five acres, four miles distant, have been deeded by Wm. D. Hooper for the same purpose, and that deed was given to Dr. Minthorn to forward to the Department.

I understand that these two tracts with ^{or} without the previously decided site, in the town of Forest Grove, of four or five acres, on which the present buildings of the U.S. Indian Industrial training ^{School} have been erected, satisfied Dr. Minthorn, and that they are reported satisfactory to the Department.

I may be allowed to suggest to the Department, that the twenty three acres ~~added to~~, and adjacent to the four or five before decided, will form the most eligible site for the entire list of buildings, needed and proposed for this Industrial School, in point of convenience, view, facility of access, and extended mechanical and farming operations and of healthfulness. The seventy five acres of Mr. Hoyer's land for farming, also decided, are near a large tract of hill, wood and timber land, still owned by the U.S. which will furnish timber

for lumber, wood, materials for various industries; also pasturage, farm and orchard land, all of which will be needed for the annually increasing demands of the diversified industries in progress, and for new ones which can be profitably carried on by the School.

I suggest that it is highly important for the future growth and welfare of this Industrial School, that the U.S. by a Special act of Congress, now reserve a few hundred acres of this tract for the use of this Institution.

In view of the present large increase of pupils, and the desire of many more to come from the various Reservations, it seems absolutely necessary that one or more buildings, for which appropriations were made at the last session of Congress, should be commenced and completed as soon as possible.

While the Indian boys quickly acquire knowledge and skill in carpentry and other wood work, it has been noticed by outside friends of these young workmen, that they will continue to need master-mechanics in each department. Permanent buildings can hardly be trusted yet to their skill in design & execution. They must learn trades as white boys learn them.

I may be allowed in conclusion to congratulate the Department of the Interior and especially the ^{Hon.} Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in view of the remarkable progress and success of the U.S. Indian Industrial Training School at Forest Grove. It has won the public confidence to a large extent.

If in respect to order, neatness, studiousness, industry & economy, it shall continue as it has begun, it will merit and receive a still larger degree of that confidence.

Yours respectfully - George H. Atkinson
 Trustee & Com. of Pacific University