

WESLEY E. DISNEY
FIRST DISTRICT OKLAHOMA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

SECRETARIES:
W. T. CROZIER
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
A. F. JORDAN
ATLAS LIFE BUILDING
TULSA, OKLA.

August 1, 1931.

Hon. Wesley E. Disney, M.C.,
Atlas Life Building,
Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Disney:

Referring to your letter of a few days ago, enclosing set of resolutions adopted by Pawnee Tribe, with regard to Junior College at Haskell, enclosed is letter which I requested the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to write.

I note he mentions that he wrote you on July 3rd. He undoubtedly has some other Congressman in mind, as he has never written you before on the matter. A number of Congressmen have been in touch with the Commissioner regarding this matter, and they have been advised to like effect.

Sincerely,



Ed.
41442-31

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

JUL 30 1931

My dear Mr. Disney:

This will refer to your secretary's personal call to this Office on July 27 at which time he left a set of resolutions adopted by the Supreme Council of the Pawnee tribe at its meeting in Pawnee, Oklahoma, on July 17, 1931.

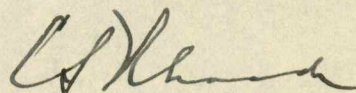
As we wrote you on July 3, there has not been at Haskell Institute a real junior college because the school did not have the academic resources necessary or the funds to buy needed equipment. The Indian Office is planning for Haskell to continue to offer advanced courses, particularly in cooperation with the University of Kansas, but it does not seem wise to attempt duplication of college and university facilities when experience has shown that Indian youth are welcomed at public and private colleges everywhere in the country and succeed admirably in their work at such institutions.

Fears of friends of Indians regarding higher educational opportunities for Indian youth are entirely unjustified. The Department is determined to develop such opportunities; and, as you know, Congress has started upon a program of educational loans for Indian students. Maintaining a junior college at Haskell, however, would hinder rather than assist this program, for the Indians who can profit by higher education can best secure it in existing institutions with others of our citizens.

Press release for July 6, 1931, concerning the appointment of a successor to H. B. Peairs who retires from the superintendency of Haskell Institute the last of this month, is inclosed.

A letter has been written to Mr. Henry Chapman of the Pawnee Council and a copy of the July 6 press release has also been mailed him.

Sincerely yours,



Commissioner.

Hon. Wesley E. Disney,

House of Representatives.

Inclosure 14401

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

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Sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. J. R. R. R.

Commissioner.

Hon. Wesley E. Disney,

House of Representatives.

Inclosure 14401.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESS

RELEASE FOR MORNING PAPERS, MONDAY, JULY 6, 1931.

Beginning September 1, a new superintendent will take over the administration and reorganization of Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior announces the appointment of Robert D. Baldwin as Superintendent of Haskell Institute, usually regarded as the most important school in the United States Indian Service.

Mr. Baldwin is a graduate of Princeton in the class of 1913, and is now Director of Graduate Courses in Educational Administration at the University of West Virginia. His experience and study in educational administration have covered the wide territory of practically the whole of the United States. Following his graduation from Princeton he took his masters degree at Teachers College, Columbia University, followed by graduate work at Leland Stanford in California and his doctors degree at Cornell. Along with the above academic activities he has held teaching positions and superintendencies in New York and other States. He was formerly Superintendent of the County Union High School in Shelby County, Tennessee, Professor of Education at State Normal School at Cheney, Washington, and Professor of Rural School Administration at the University of Missouri. From 1926 to 1930 he was President of State Teachers College at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, being hand picked to fill that place. His book on county school finance is one of the best known works covering that subject.

The position of Superintendent at Haskell was left open on the age retirement of Mr. H. B. Pairs, formerly Director of Education in the Indian Service and who retired on June 30 of this year after forty-four years of continuous and honored service. The appointment of Mr. Baldwin to follow Mr. Pairs is the first of a most important series of ten appointments covering five Superintendents of Indian Schools and five Superintendents of Education on reservations, since the standards for such

positions have been raised. It is a part of the new policy in the Indian Service to attempt to recruit from among the best equipped and the best qualified people in education in the United States.

Haskell Institute has been the subject of rumor and agitation in the past few weeks. Due to the fact that some few courses going beyond its regular secondary school work are being taught there, an impression has arisen in the minds of many people that Haskell was an accredited junior college, which it never has been. The department of education in the Indian Service is encouraging advanced teacher training for Indians at existing higher institutions. But the abandonment of the teacher-training courses at Haskell, due to the higher standards now demanded all along the line in educational work throughout the country and in the Indian Service, must not create the mistaken idea that all advanced commercial and vocational work is to go by the boards. Indian youths are already preparing for teaching at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Kansas, Northeastern State Teachers College at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and elsewhere, and loan funds have already been made available for students undertaking this work. This course has been adopted by the Indian Office after seeking the advice of many educated Indians who feel that the people of their race should more and more take advantage of the existing available facilities which will give them a broader outlook through interracial contacts. For several years past there have been a hundred or more Indian students at the University of Oklahoma.

Haskell has already to its credit a few commercial and vocational courses. These are to be further developed and it is hoped that the commercial school will serve as a training center for much of the clerical force in the Indian Service for the future. As the most cosmopolitan of Indian schools, between seventy and eighty tribes are usually represented in its enrollment, and it is planned that the commercial courses will attract those Indian students who feel that they can render a definite service to their own people in becoming a part of the force of the Indian