

INDIAN SCHOOL LAND IN ARIZONA.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and accompanying draft of a bill setting apart a certain tract of land in the Territory of Arizona for Indian school purposes.

JANUARY 29, 1891.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 28, 1891.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a communication of 27th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying draft of a bill setting apart and reserving a certain tract of land in the Territory of Arizona for Indian school purposes, and authorizing the governor of said Territory to select other lands in lieu thereof.

The letter of the Commissioner explains the necessity for this legislation, and I have the honor to request that the matter receive the favorable consideration of Congress at its present session.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 27, 1891.

SIR: Inclosed find a communication from Mr. W. J. Murphy, a citizen of Phoenix, Ariz., who is now in this city as the accredited representative of the citizens' committee of Phoenix, asking for certain legislation in the interest of Maricopa County.

Mr. Murphy expresses not only his own wishes and views, but also those of a very considerable portion of the most prominent business men of the city of Phoenix, when he suggests that the new Indian

school now in operation in temporary quarters in the city of Phoenix shall be permanently located on the east half of section 36, township 2 north, of range 2 east.

I personally inspected this land and regard it as exceptionally valuable for the purpose named, and I should consider it as not only a great and good fortune to the Indian school, but also to the general cause of education in the Territory of Arizona, if this site should be designated as the home of this Indian school.

The leading citizens of Phoenix, both personally and in mass meetings, expressed the liveliest interest in the establishment of the school and in various ways have pledged themselves to cooperate in any possible manner in rendering the school successful.

There are in Arizona a great many thousands of Indians. The welfare of the Territory and future State of Arizona depends, necessarily, largely upon the proper education of the rising generation of Indians. Unless they are educated and taught habits of intelligent industry they will continue to be, as they are now to a considerable extent, a burden and a menace and will materially hinder the growth and prosperity of this new commonwealth.

If, however, these Indian children can receive an English and industrial education, whereby they may become intelligent, self-reliant, and progressive, and be able to be assimilated readily in the life of the State, they will not only cease to be a burden but become a helpful factor in the development of the resources of the State.

One of the great industries of Arizona is that of fruit-growing. The Indians, where they have been tried, have shown a special adaptation to this sort of industry, and it is the purpose of the office and the wish of the citizens of Arizona that the industrial school already established at Phoenix shall be made a training school, in which Indian boys and girls may be prepared to engage in the work of fruit-growing. I was assured by men acquainted with the situation that there is a demand for the kind of help that these young people can so well render, and that as fast as they can be fitted for the work they will receive remunerative employment among the white fruit-growers of the State.

In addition to this it need hardly be said that the Indians themselves have lands in large quantities which are becoming adapted to fruit-growing, and that if their children are properly taught they can carry on this industry at home and make it a source of support and of increasing prosperity.

The half section of land which it is proposed to devote to this purpose is known as school section, and it was suggested to me that there could be no better use made of a half school section in Arizona than in establishing thereon such an industrial training school for Arizona Indians as is above described.

Not only will the land subserve its purpose in promoting education by assisting to educate Arizona Indians, but the success of this school, such as is certain under proper management, would be a stimulus and a help to all educational enterprises in the Territory.

In view of these considerations, I have the honor to recommend that this matter be laid before Congress with request that a special act be passed authorizing the use of the land above noted, and for this purpose I have caused to be drafted a bill to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress for their action.

On November 29, 1890, you transmitted to me a copy of an opinion by the Assistant Attorney-General of the Department, to the effect that this section being a legislative reservation its use for Indian school

purposes was prohibited; hence the necessity for Congressional action in order to secure its use for such purpose.

It is understood that there are certain persons now residing on portions of this half section who have made certain improvements, erected certain buildings, and claim certain rights thereon.

It is not the intention to dispossess these people violently, or to prejudice any rights that they may have, nor to take from them their property without due compensation.

Settlers living upon one quarter of the section have already sold their improvements, receiving the sum of \$1,050 from citizens of Phoenix interested in putting the land to educational uses in connection with an agricultural experiment station.

It is also understood that the settlers on the east half of the section are willing to sell their improvements for a fair consideration.

A request will be made that there shall be inserted in the Indian appropriation bill an item authorizing the expenditure of \$4,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, in the purchase of such improvements as may be needed for the school which have already been made upon this east half of the section.

I am assured by Mr. Murphy that should this amount not be sufficient to render just compensation for whatever equities these people may have, that the citizens of Phoenix, who have no desire whatever to see any injustice done, will see to it that such additional sums as are necessary to meet all the requirements of equity will be contributed and paid to the proper claimants.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 27, 1891.

DEAR SIR: Referring to the location of the Indian school at Phoenix, Ariz., I beg to call your attention as a possible site to the east half of section 36, township 2, north range 2 east. This land is located 2 miles northwest from Phoenix; a street railway extends from Phoenix to its southeast corner. The soil is specially adapted to the growing of fruits and vegetables, being light, friable, and very fertile.

The west half of this section is temporarily occupied by the Government agricultural experiment station. This being a school section it is suggested that the west half be set apart for the permanent location of the agricultural experiment station, and the east half for the Indian school.

The people of Phoenix and Maricopa County feel a deep interest in the success of this school, and I beg to assure you of their earnest coöperation in this good work.

Very respectfully,

W. J. MURPHY.

Gen. THOMAS J. MORGAN,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

A BILL setting apart and reserving a certain tract of land in the Territory of Arizona for Indian school purposes, and authorizing the governor of said Territory to select other lands in lieu thereof.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the east half of section thirty-six, township two north, range two east, Gila and Salt River meridian, in the Territory of Arizona, be, and the same is hereby, set apart and reserved for the exclusive use and occupancy of an Indian industrial training school, and other lands of like quantity and value may be selected by the governor of said Territory, or an agent appointed by him, in lieu thereof, from the surveyed public lands within said Territory not otherwise legally claimed or appropriated at the time of selection, to be applied to schools in said Territory.