

American Home Missionary Society,

Portland, Oregon, April 24 1885

Hon. G. D. C. Lamar

Secretary of the Interior
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir-

Allow me
to make the following statements, respecting the U.S.
Indian Industrial School at Forest Grove, Oregon.

This Training School was established by Hon.
Carl Schurz Secretary of the Interior.

Its aim was to collect Indian children from many
reservations, in this North Pacific region, and teach them
not only to read and write, to learn trades and to form habits
of industry, (all of which are done to some extent on the
Reservations,) but also to learn the ways of home and citizen
life by living among white families, Schools & Churches.

Such ~~direct~~ object lessons impress very strongly the
mode and value of our civilization for their adoption.

The Government agent sent to select a location for the
School, Capt. M. C. Wilkinson U.S.A., presented these objects
of the Government to the Trustees of Tualatin Academy and

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Pacific University, located at Forest Grove, and informally to the citizens of that town, and inquired whether they would favor the establishment of the proposed Indian training school in or near that place, and grant it any land or other facilities? This was a serious question, owing to the public sentiment against Indians and the distrust of the possibility of their civilization.

But in view of its great importance and of the desire of the Government to test the question thoroughly on this coast, as it was doing at the east in the Schools at Hampton Va, and at Carlisle Pa, the Trustees welcomed the project, the citizens assenting, and offered a block of about four acres free of charge for the school site.

- The town furnished these advantages for the success of the enterprise. It had grown up around ^{the} on the lands of the Academy & College as an educational center.
- 1st It had like Vineland, New Jersey, prohibited the manufacture, sale or gift of alcoholic drinks in the sale of lots since 1848.
 - 2^d It is a cluster of quiet, orderly ^{familial} settled, those chiefly for school privileges, with all needed stores and mechanic shops, three

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- Churches & a public school beside the Academy & College x
4. It is surrounded by farming settlements x
5th Its site attractive and healthful x
6th The Citizens have bought and offered the U.S. Government
twenty three acres adjacent to the town for a larger school
site and small farm, and seventy five acres four miles
distant for a larger farm, all good land x

Execution of the plan

With great difficulty Capt. Wilkinson secured
the first fifty Indian children x Their parents objected &
in some cases resisted the request and demand of
the U.S. Government to remove their children from their
rude homes to such a distant school x The change
was very great x They found new rooms, clothing
food, habits and language, as all learn English only x
Two hundred have come and five hundred will freely
do so if they can be received x Parents and friends
have visited them and have become satisfied and
pleased x Fourteen tribes are represented in the school x
Some of the boys are shoe makers; Some blacksmiths;
Some carpenters; Some farmers; Some wagon makers;

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Some, bakers; Some, printers, owning a press and printing
a paper edited by themselves on it. (See Copy enclosed)

The girls do all domestic work and make all
the clothing. All study half a day & work half
a day thus promoting health & industry. Their
recreations are, ^{becoming,} like those of white children.

They are quiet and respectful. They attend
either of the three churches, ^{& Sabbath School} once every Sabbath
joining with other worshippers in the services, and
hold ab-eveing service in their own school room.

The older boys engage in military drill with
the boys & young men of the Academy and College, &
also in the base ball games on the Campus, taking
high rank as athletes and in military positions.

Some have entered the Academy as Students.
They have won the respect and confidence of
the Community. Reproofs and punishments have been infrequent.

By strict care, their social relations have with
few exceptions been guided and guarded safely.

Some have graduated and married, and
made homes of their own on their reservations.

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The success of the School is now acknowledged by the people generally; by the Press; by large numbers of visiting Strangers; by numerous U.S. officials and gentlemen from Europe.

President Hayes & wife inspected and commended it. Hon. J. Eaton L.S.D. Ph.D. U.S. Commissioner of Education knows its history from the first. He has visited and approved its work officially, & by correspondence has kept himself informed of its progress and increasing usefulness.

It is known among all the Indian tribes of this region even to Alaska. It is held in honor among leading Indian chiefs and head men as their great Industrial School. It is a bond of amicable union among them all, and a pledge of peace between them and the whites.

The danger and costs of ~~an~~ Indian wars in Alaska, which are always imminent, can, in many if not in all cases, be averted by keeping a large delegation of their children in the U.S. Indian Training School at Forest Grove, among those schools, churches and

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families of sober, intelligent, industrious white
people. That is an object lesson of great power
upon the Indian mind.

Their removal to the woods four
miles from Salem, will deprive them of
the best elements of their training and so far
defeat the plans of the U.S. Government in
preparing them for civilized life.

Yours respectfully

G. H. Atkinson

Secy. of U.S. Pacific University