

Industrial Education.

Carson Indian School, Carson, Nevada.
To Superintendent Indian School,
Chemawa, Oregon.

Sir:—You will do me the kindness to give me a short outline of the course of work pursued in your school in the Tailor and Shoe shops. I shall be pleased to know what work is required of the pupils first in each of these shops and what particular attention does the instructor give to each individual pupil. I am also anxious to know what quantity of work is performed each month by a class of about fifteen, each boy working one-half day. Do you require your instructors to require of the pupils regularity as well as quality in their work? At what period in a boy's apprenticeship is he put to cutting garments or if in the shoe shop, about? Would you recommend all the tools and appliances that can be obtained, or do you think it advisable to have the pupils do their work with as few as possible. Thanking you in advance for the information which you may give in reply to the foregoing, I am,

Very respectfully,

JAMES K. ALLEN, Supt.

U. S. Indian Training School,

Chemawa, Ore., March 27, 1902.

Supt. Thom. W. Potter,

Salem Indian School,

Chemawa, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—In obedience to your request to answer the questions asked by Mr. James K. Allen, Superintendent Carson Indian School, I beg to submit the following:

The first thing required of a new pupil in the tailoring department is to be as neat as possible about their own clothes and to learn how to repair them, then repairing and pressing clothes for others, now a straight seam, handle the needle and machine properly, make alterations or make underwear or miscellaneous other work, then small boys' pants. This usually will require the first year of their apprenticeship.

The quantity of work performed by fifteen boys will depend wholly upon the time

the apprentices have worked at the trade. Taking it for granted that some have worked at the trade for about three, some two years and that others are in their first year, a detail of fifteen boys ought to turn out about twenty suits per month, or its equivalent in repairing or other work.

Quality of work should be the first consideration when the welfare of the pupil is considered; quantity when it becomes necessary, at no time allowing them to idle their time away. Almost all work is done by the piece at a given price for trousers, coats, and coats respectively, and self-interest will prompt them to work rapidly. It is very rarely that a journeyman loses his job by being slow, but quite often by not being careful or painstaking or being able to do the work good enough.

There exists a prejudice against Indian school made tailors, caused, undoubtedly, by former pupils of these schools undertaking work they were unable to perform satisfactorily.

Cutting garments is really no part of the tailor's trade, and in my opinion is in most cases simply a waste of time when lessons are given indiscriminately as we have just coming from an Indian school may hope to get a situation as cutter, but the brightest boy will forget enough in six months (unless kept in steady practice) to remember what he does remember useless to him. Not one half of the journeyman tailors can sew out because it is not required of them. But when a boy has prospects of starting a shop for himself then he should be taught a system of cutting, which should be in the last year of apprenticeship, which in my opinion should be four years.

The tools required in a tailor shop should be good needles, scissors (eight or ten inch), sewing machine, a forty-five (45) inch cork, a square, machine hole cutter, press block, press stand, iron and a stove to heat them, a pair of cutting shears, and wooden rules. They are few compared to requirements of other trades and are inexpensive, the above mentioned being all that are necessary.

Respectfully,

AARON P. OVERMAN, Tailor.