Mississippi

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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1879

Dr. R. M. Pratt

Hampton

Jan 14-79

Rl. to the 20

Girl question

School overloads

with boys.

Jude

Ann. by tel. Jan. 25, 79

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Hon. E.A. Hayt
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hayt,

I take your silence on the twenty girls question to mean consent, and am working it up. I now have guarantees for 34 with more in prospect.

The school is overloaded with boys, having as you must know fifty review, as well, and, as I believe, accomplishing more for the boys and the Indian cause in general, I propose to find places for most of the Florida boys, where they will be under good tutors or agricultural training and, as much as possible, isolated from each other. To give them six months of this kind of
of life, or even more, each of the two remaining years of their stay east, after this year, will, to my mind, accomplish more than persistent books and school routine, even though labor enters largely into that routine. Independence, self-reliance, and better English speaking, will all be forwarded more by separation. They are no longer subjects of curiosity, and under such training as seems possible to obtain, will not be noticed or treated very different from white boys under the same circumstances. In company with Genl. Atkinson I have looked the field over, somewhat, from here, and it can be done. That they will do any better in the same time than white boys I do not by any means proclaim. That they will become finished workmen or Agriculturists, within the given period of such training, any more than any other race of men, it would be foolish to assert. But it seems to me to be the application
of commencement to Indian life, which is just as
much needed for success in that life as any
other. Neither do I expect that their return
will tame their tribes inside out or outside
in and complete a reformation that scores
of better trained white men have speeded but
slowly through, scores of years of persistent effort.
My aim and wish would be to save the individual.
Whatever course will best secure that I hope may
be pursued.

I feel confident we shall get the funds
and personal interest needed for the
twenty girls, or at least sufficient to
warrant your recognition of it to the
extent of paying the travel expenses.

With great respect
Your obedient servant

G. H. Bajer
T. O. Carly