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INDIAN AFFAIRS  
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Indian Industrial School,  
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.  
Capt. R. H. Pratt, 10<sup>th</sup> Cav.  
July 12, 1890.

Observations white at  
Haskell Institute.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,  
CARLISLE, PA.

July 12th, 1890.

Hon. T. J. Morgan,  
Commr. of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Complying with your letter of yesterday asking me to make a report of my visit to Haskell, and give my impressions of the School, I have the honor to respectfully state that on my arrival in San Francisco, on returning from my recent trip to Japan, I found an urgent letter from Supt. Meserve, asking me to stop at Haskell on my way east.

I arrived in Lawrence between three and four o'clock in the afternoon; was met by Mr. Meserve, and reached the School towards five o'clock, on Friday, the 20th of June. Spent the evening in talking with Mr. Meserve, meeting a few personal friends who called at the School, and left the next morning a little after day-light. At the time of my arrival the students were all away in the berry-patch, but I saw them at supper and afterwards they were assembled on the Green, and I talked to them a few minutes.

I met very few of the employes, and visited parts of some of the buildings with Mr. Meserve. Saw nothing of the work-shops. I do not feel from my limited visit and observation able to make anything of a report. I have always con-



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sidered Haskell, and do now consider it as well located as any Indian School could be west of the Mississippi.

As I told you verbally when in Washington, Supt. Meserve had many difficulties to tell me of. It appeared that he was in a general state of dissatisfaction with his employes and had discharged a number of them and was contemplating more. He had been attacked by the newspapers in the town, and I understood he desired me to visit him in order that I might give counsel, which I did.

During my visit Mrs. Haskell, the widow of the Hon. Dudley C. Haskell, who formerly represented that district in Congress, and through whose efforts Haskell Institute was first established, called at the School, and taking me aside urged that I represent to the Hon. Commissioner and the Hon. Secretary the state of affairs there. How that Mr. Meserve was a gentleman, and was on good terms with the best people in the town, and had elevated the relations of the School in that respect far above what they had ever been before. She had been with him in the earlier part of his administration, and felt that he was the man for the place. That there were outside influences--local politics and perhaps some politics not local that were working against him, and that she felt



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that the Government ought to stand by him.

She said that it had always been the determination of the local politicians to manage the School, and unless that could be broken up the School would never amount to anything. From what she said and others told me, I have no doubt but that Haskell will fail to do the great work that it might do unless it is taken out of politics.

It has had five Superintendents in its short career, and all the other employes have been changed quite as often. This in itself would make it impossible to produce material results.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*R. H. Pratt*

Capt. & Supt.