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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec NOV 8

1901

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*Indian Industrial School,*

*Carlisle, Pa. Nov. 7, 1901.*

*Pratt, R. H.,*

*Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.*

Giving in full privileges  
accorded the Catholic church  
among the students at this  
school.

*To Haskell Nov. 30,*

*[Large blue and red handwritten signature]*

*[Small handwritten mark]*

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**Department of the Interior,**  
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Nov. 7, 1901.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

Replying to your letter of Nov. 5th marked "Education, 61013" directing that I state in full the privileges that have been granted the Catholic Church at this school, I have to respectfully advise you that in the very beginning I adopted the plan of having the different ministers in the town of Carlisle take charge of the Sunday afternoon services for a month each in turn. I invited the Catholic priest to take his turn, but this he declined to do. I said to all the ministers including the priest that I desired the children to attend their churches and Sunday schools and be as much under their care as possible without conflicting too materially with the school routine. The Catholic priest for years desired only that his members be at the Sunday service. This was arranged, the boys being sent under care of one of the most intelligent members among our students, the girls being cared for by one of the ladies of the church who was sent out by the priest to take them in and return them to the school. After six or seven years on this plan, several of the pastors desired to give their children an hour's lecture each week at a time that did not interfere with matters here, meeting them in a room at the school. It was so arranged and the M.E. minister, the two Presbyterian, the Episcopal minister and the Catholic priest each

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had a class between six and seven on some week evening. With summer intermissions and occasional intermissions in the winter, suiting the convenience of the ministers themselves, this plan has been carried on to the present time. About four years ago the present priest desired to make an arrangement whereby the Catholic pupils might have four hours each week on other days than Sunday, and twice on Sundays to be under care of nuns whom he proposed to bring to Carlisle for that purpose; and to have the children go part of the time to what he called a parish house, which he intended to build, and the remainder of the times meet him on the grounds. On that occasion I informed the priest that four hours would be a greater tax upon the time of the children than could be favored, for it would be necessary to grant the same privileges to other churches, and the regular and necessary work of the school would be so interfered with by an arrangement of this kind, especially for all, but sufficiently for the Catholics alone on account of their large number, to make it impracticable for us to concede so much time. A little more than a year ago he asked for two hours a week beside the Sunday periods and this I agreed to, feeling that I could grant the same privilege to other denominations should they ask it. The Catholic sisters meet the Catholic students in the school rooms from six to seven Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. They have also a meeting at the church between nine and ten on Sundays, the same hour we have for Sunday school for the remainder of the children here. In all these services the Catholics have all the boys and girls belonging to their denomination. The Methodist and Episcopalian ministers ask only for one hour each week and the boys attend Sunday school in town, and both

girls and boys attend preaching.

I have been careful at all times to require that there be no proselyting on either side. Occasionally, students among themselves have persuaded students belonging to other churches to change and go with them to their services, but that is not permitted without a full understanding. If a student advances very good reasons for changing from the Methodist to the Catholic church or vice versa, and that is sanctioned at home, the change is permitted. Under these rules there have been a few changes thru the years, but not more than half a dozen altogether.

I may add that there has been no harrassment of any kind on account of these services. It has sometimes been inconvenient to supply girls to do up the dining room work because of the large number attending the Thursday evening meetings, all ministers choosing the same evening, but it has been arranged without material hardship. We have a Sunday afternoon preaching service and a Sunday evening meeting at which all students without reference to creed are required to be present unless there should be some special service in town at which the minister requests the presence of his members, but such occurrences are very rare. There has been no objection on the part of the Catholic church to the presence of the Catholic students at the morning prayers of the school in the dining room, nor at the Sunday afternoon and evening services.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.