

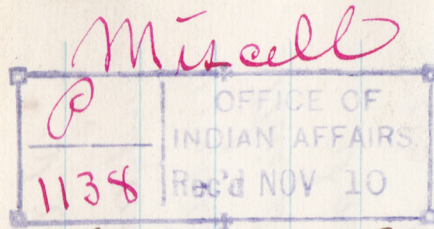
United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa.,

18



1879.

Lt. R. N. Pratt

Carlisle

Nov. 7-79

Towards sample of
clothing - caps shoes
& ~~of clothing~~ fur
nished for Ind.
youths & mrs to
pchs. funds &c

To DEPT Nov. 12/79

Letter to Pratt Nov. 13/79

7

Pratt

United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., Nov 7th 1879

Hon E. A. Hayt

Commissioner of Ind. Affairs

Washington D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the information of the Commissioner one pair of trousers, a cap, and a shoe and a pair of stockings; samples of the clothing furnished me by the Department for the Indian youth under my care.

The "cap" has been worn four days. The Commissioner will readily see that there is no strength or durability in it; there are dozens in the same condition. The "shoe" has been worn two days. In addition to being badly made and too coarse for ^{girls} children to wear who have just left off moccasins, the side seams make their feet sore. I know from experience, as the sole wears away, the metal screws work up into the shoe and distress the feet. The "Trousers" were issued yesterday, I note

that among the children from the Indian Territory to whom clothing was issued by their Agents before starting, the clothing is worn and torn at the knees in the same manner. An examination will show that the cloth is not worth the making up.

I find a new pair of stockings with the simple statement that two days wear in the very heavy unpliant boots and shoes sent for the boys; is about all that can be got out of them. I have sent for the girls ^{and only a trifle better.}

The trousers and the vests are uniformly too small around the body; in many instances they can only be used at all by cutting off the legs and issuing them to boys two or three years younger than they were designed for.

The Invoices of the boys clothing were received today, and fifty suits day before yesterday, the other fifty suits I suppose will be along sometime.

If I do get the boys out of their buck coats and blankets into the clothing already supplied, it is very evident from the character of the supplies received that they will be forced back into the

Blanket and buck cloth condition before a new supply can be had, as two months will have elapsed tomorrow since I made my application for this clothing.

If the Hon. Commissioners will fix the amount that may be expended for clothing and allow its expenditure under the supervision of some one who will exercise common prudence; it may be made last a part of the time and with the Commissioners limit of expenditure in my hand; I can go before the public and beg enough to supply the needs of the school - or if the Dept. is going to furnish one with this class of clothing and in the tardy manner it has, it will only be necessary for me to take a few samples such as I send to the Commissioners and exhibit before proper audiences to raise funds and supply the whole.

The conscience of the Government may be satisfied to fix an obligation to Indians in the West with such clothing, but it will be utterly impossible to keep any heart in this work if compelled to make use of it here.

I enclose for the information of the Commission
"Hampton's" statement of the cost of clothing an
Indian boy. The suits first mentioned are now
being worn by some of the Florida boys and they
were issued over a year ago. But the other supplies
mentioned were needed to make them last so long.

I respectfully invite attention to my letter of the 3rd
inst, asking for one Thousand dollars (\$1,000) and per-
mission to go into the market and buy clothing for
this school I now to supply its immediate needs.

I now request that the sum be increased to Twenty-
five hundred dollars (\$2,500.) so that I may be at
least secure against the needs of the winter.

I believe I know better what is needed than
the parties who purchased the clothing which
has been so far sent me.

In order that I may be properly fortified, when
I go upon the market I request that the sum be
placed to my credit as early as practicable.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

A. H. Pratt

1st Lieut. 10th Cavalry In Chg of School