

9836

OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Rec'd JUN 9

1881

R. N. Pratt

Carlisle, Pa.

June 8-81

Ref. letters from  
Inds. at Rose  
bud agency, and  
to draw direct  
run at the school

1 incl

See letter to Agent Cook June 11/81.

Cook

V

1st. Endorsement.

Indian Training School,  
Carlisle, Pa., June 8, 1881.

Enclosed copies of two letters  
received from the Rosebud  
Agency, are respectfully for-  
warded to the Honorable Com-  
missioner of Indian Affairs  
for his information.

R. N. Pratt  
1st Lieut 10<sup>th</sup> Cav.  
In charge.

Miss East

Copy

United States Indian Service,

Resbud Agency, Dakota.

May 23, 1881.

Supt. R. H. Pratt,

Carlisle Training School,

Sir:

On last Saturday a general council of the Indians at this agency was held. It was intended that the agent should be present, but it stormed so hard we concluded not to call him out to join us. The subject matter of this council was the school at Carlisle <sup>and</sup> the constant sickness <sup>and</sup> frequent deaths of our children.

We have listened to the "Great Father" <sup>and</sup> heeded his words to us. We have given up our children to him to be educated that they may by his teaching, learn the ways of the whites so that they may be civilized <sup>and</sup> when they come back to us help us on the road to civilization, all this we have done with a good heart. We are determined from this on to give up our Indian ways <sup>and</sup> live <sup>and</sup> act the ways of the whites.

We love our children just as dearly as the whites do theirs. It grieves our hearts when we hear they are sick <sup>and</sup> we mourn hard <sup>and</sup> long when they die <sup>and</sup> are taken away from us.

It is far harder for us to bear these afflictions when they are separated from us. Now this letter write, not only to you, but one just like it to the "Great Father," The Secretary of the Interior <sup>and</sup> to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This letter is not written by one man but by the request of all our chiefs <sup>and</sup> head men <sup>and</sup> all the Indians, those who have children at school <sup>and</sup> those who want to send to school. We would not want our children to come away from Gardie if they could always keep well <sup>and</sup> not die away from us. We cannot bear to hear of the sickness <sup>and</sup> deaths of our children <sup>and</sup> we want you to listen to our words, we tell them in all kindness <sup>and</sup> love to the "Great Father" we ask you, as you love <sup>and</sup> sympathize with us to send our children back to us <sup>and</sup> give them a school <sup>and</sup> teachers to educate them. This is all we have to say to you. We are your true friends,

Spotted <sup>tail</sup> & Tail

Iron <sup>mark</sup> & Strike

White <sup>mark</sup> & Thunder

Swift <sup>mark</sup> & Bear <sup>mark</sup>

<sup>and</sup> the Council generally,

Spotted Tail has asked me to add a postscript to this letter <sup>and</sup> I do so very cheerfully. I have endeavored in every way to induce these Indians to keep their children when

they are. The constant sickness <sup>and</sup> frequent deaths  
at the school of our children renders it extremely diffi-  
cult to keep these Indians in good heart <sup>and</sup> I do think  
as soon as or later will have a school of our own it  
would be for the best interests of the agency, <sup>and</sup> the Indians  
to comply with the request they have made. The mourn-  
ing of those whose children have died is simply fright-  
ful.

Yours very truly,

Look. Sgt.

**Copy**

Rosebud Agency, Dakota  
May 23, 1881

Capt. R. H. Pratt,  
Carlisle Indian School,  
Sir:

On last Saturday a general council of the Indians at this agency was held. It was intended that the agent should be present, but it stormed so hard we concluded not to call him out to join us. The subject matter of this council was the school at Carlisle and the constant sickness and frequent deaths of our children.

We have listened to the "Great Father" and heeded his words to us. We have given up our children to him to be educated that they may by his teachings learn the ways of the whites so that they may be civilized and when they come back to us help us on the road to civilization, all this we have done with a good heart. We are determined from this on to give up our Indian ways and live and act the ways of the whites.

We love our children just as dearly as the whites do theirs. It grieves our hearts when we hear they are sick and we mourn hard and long when they die and are taken away from us.

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It is far harder for us to bear these afflictions when they are separated from us. Now this letter write, not only to you, but one just like it to the "Great Father," the Secretary of the Interior and to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This letter is not written by one man but by the request of all our chiefs and head men and all the Indians, those who have children at the school and those who want to send to school. We would not want our children to come away from Carlisle if they could always keep well and not die away from us. We cannot bear to hear of the sickness and death of our children and we want you to listen to our words. We tell them in all kindness and love to the "Great Father" we ask you, as you love and sympathize with us to send our children back to us and with them a school and teachers to educate them. This is all we have to say to you. We are your true friends.

Spotted Tail (his X mark)  
Two Strike (his X mark)  
White Thunder (his X mark)  
Swift Bear (his X mark)  
and the Council generally.

Spotted Tail has asked me to add a postscript to this letter and I do so very cheerfully. I have endeavored in every way to induce these Indians to keep their children where

[page 3]

they are. The constant sickness and frequent deaths at the school of our children renders it extremely difficult to keep these Indian in good heart and I do think as we sooner or later will have a school of our own it would be for the best interest of the agency and the Indians to comply with the request they have made. The mourning of those whose children who have died is simply frightful.

Yours very resply,  
Cook, Agt.

to the people or counselled them at all & wish  
you would let me hear what the Comident says  
to you on this subject. That is all,

Black Spots.

9836

INDIAN OFFICE

Incls: No. /

1881

Copy

Resbud, D.V.

5-27-81.

Capt. Pratt,

Spotted Tail went to Carlisle and took his children away & it displeased the whites very much & now every one is trying to get their children home but that is not right & I say they will not be able to accomplish anything. All that is wrong & I have said they will not be able to do anything. It will turn out as I say & they should listen to me. I write this to you the head of the school & intend it to go on to the President. That is all I have to say but I say it very strong. When I say send the children home then it will be the right time for you to send them. Since I came back here last summer I have not listened

to the people or counselled them at all I wish  
you would let me hear what the President says  
to you on this subject. That is all.

Black Crow.

9836

Inclous: No. /

INDIAN OFFICE

1881

**Copy**

Rosebud, D.T.  
5-27-81

Capt. Pratt,

Spotted Tail went to Carlisle and took his children away and it displeased the whites very much and now every one is trying to get their children home but that is not right and I say they will not be able to accomplish anything. It will turn out as I say and they should listen to me. I write tis to you the Head of the school and intend it to go on to the President. That is all I have to say but I say it very strong. When I say send the children home then it will be the right time for you to send them. Since I came back here last summer I have not listened

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to the people or counselled them at all. I wish you would let me hear what the President says to you on this subject. That is all.

Black Crow