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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd MAY 11

1882

W. A. Pratt
Carried.

May 9-82

Reply to officed
letter of 8th inst
rel. to T. L. Riggs
as an Educator
tom

File ✓

Cook

United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., May 9th 1882

Hon. H. Price

Com^r of Ind^a Affs.

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 8th inst. marked C. 8346, I thank you for your confidence and consideration.

I am not personally acquainted with Mr. J. L. Riggs, and therefore am unable to form an opinion satisfactory to myself. From the information I have, I fear Mr. Riggs belongs to a class of educators predisposed to vernacular training, and of too limited views and experience for the duties of Inspector of Schools.

It is my opinion that this new office

Should, if possible, fall as a promotion, to some one already in the Indian service, who is conversant by large and tried experience with the many phases of Indian work, and especially the educational branch, and who has sufficient breadth to encourage every feature and denominational help.

My mind has turned toward Agent Jno. S. Miles who now has charge of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes more than to any other. I have known him intimately for twelve years. As an officer of the Army serving against, and among the people he has charge of, I have known of many of his difficulties with a very bad lot of Indians. He is self-sacrificing and has the best interests of the Indians at heart. I have had knowledge of important transactions showing his high integrity. He has held his place through many changes of administration. He has, I am aware, been criticised somewhat, but in my judgement his critics could not do as

well; and if he has made mistakes he is the kind of a man to profit by them. On several occasions he has been subjected to severe trials of personal courage in executing his duty, and has met them with credit and honor to himself and his office. He believes in educating the whole number of children, and has by his own efforts grown up ^{from nothing} the largest schools under the greatest difficulties. His denominational preferences are not noticeable, Altho he is a Friend he welcomes to his agency, Episcopal, Mennonite and other workers.

He pushes education on the reservation and of it, and is especially earnest for industrial education.

His promotion would save to the Dept. invaluable and long tried experience and incite fresh hope in other faithful officials.

Agent Geo. D. Miles is my recommendation for Inspector of Schools.

Very respectfully,
Yours Oth. Sewb,
R. H. Ball, Ch. & Suph