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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd. OCT 3

1884

R. H. Pratt

Carlisle

Oct. 1. 84

Enc. copy of
report of Mr.
Burgess re. to
his trip to the
nomadic Res.
after pupils
and interfer-
ence of Catholic
Priests &c

Hinc

File

Said E 14/81

H. C. Cook

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., Sept. 18th 1884Capt. R. H. Pratt,
Supt.

Dear Sir:

During a visit at the Green Bay Indian Agency, Wis. where I was sent under your orders Sept. 14th to take charge of a party of sixteen pupils who were coming to this School, I met with many and serious difficulties in collecting the number some of which I wish to report to you. Agent Andrews informed me upon my arrival that the party at one time was made up as he supposed, but Father Zephyrin, a Catholic Priest had been interfering with his plans and was working to prevent the return of our old pupils.

On the following day I visited the Catholic School, talked with the Priest and found what the Agent had said was true. He was opposed to sending children of Catholics to Carlisle or Hampden, and was bitter in his denunciations of these Government Schools.

The Interpreter, Mr. Prickett, told me that his wife who was a devout Catholic had been turned out of church because they sent their child to the Agency Government School, and she felt so badly about it that she was quite sick for some time. In that way he works upon the minds of the ignorant parents and frightens them into the belief that great calamity will befall them if they do not listen to him.

Elizabeth Dixon, one of our returned pupils, who is a member of the Presbyterian Church, walked several miles on a very hot day to see me and tell me she would like

to go back to Carlisle. Her mother is a vile woman and keeps a disreputable house, but she belongs to the Catholic Church. I asked her to let Elizabeth go back with me. Said she, "I cannot. I am afraid of the Priest. He says if I let her go he will turn me out of church. If I get sick I shall have no care, and if I die I shall not be buried in the Catholic burying ground."

Alennie Daupoose also wanted to come back; but she said the Priest would not let her.

A chief told me that Father Zephyrin visited the different Pagan settlements and urged them not to send children to the Government schools.

Augustus Grignon said he would like to return but the Priest would not permit him to. Mitchell Ashtanawiew, a returned Hampton pupil, is assisting in the Government School. He is a Catholic but, he said, Father Zephyrin would not speak to him, simply because he is a Government School assistant. He makes the way hard for all returned Carlisle and Hampton pupils; calls them rascals and dandies, and calls Carlisle and Hampton "little Hells." There are 800 Catholics in a tribe of 1400 - Seven Priests and as many sisters. Among the 600 Indians who do not belong to the Catholic church there must be some good school material; but to obtain any considerable number it would take some time to work up a feeling in favor of sending their children so far.

Very Respectfully

(Sgd.) M. Burgess

A true copy

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10 Cav. Regt.

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., Oct. 1. 1887

To the Hon.

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

Sir:-

I deem it best to inclose to you a copy of a Report to me by one of my Assistants whom I sent to the Menomonee Agency after a party of pupils for this School.

I have met the same Catholic opposition at Rosebud, Pine Ridge and in a number of the Pueblo villages in New Mexico. We have endeavored at Carlisle to give the broadest liberty and encouragement to the different Churches, including the Catholic, to cooperate. The recent priest at this place was seldom sober; but I made that no reason for withholding our Catholic pupils from attendance at the Catholic Sunday School

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and Church. From the serious and general
character of their opposition to the
school work of the Government, I am
led to believe that there is secret
and high inspiration for it.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav.

Supt.