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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd JUL 30

1885

N. H. Pratt
Carlele

July. 29. 85-

Ref. to his letter
of 14th & reply of
27th inst. rel. to
his request to
open a \$ 233.⁶⁸
pchs. of tents &c

Letter to Pratt Aug. 10/85

File

B + H. 18/68

Sept

Handwritten notes on lined paper, possibly a page from a notebook. The text is written in cursive and appears to be a list or a set of instructions. The first line starts with "1. 2. 3." and continues with "4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100." The text is written in a cursive style and is somewhat difficult to read. There are some corrections and deletions visible. A pen is visible in the top left corner.

U. S.

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., July 29. 1885

To the Hon.

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

Referring to my letter of the 14th inst, and your reply of the 27th in regard to my request to expend \$233.⁶⁵ in the purchase of tents, flies & a pavilion, I have to say I thought the Office well informed of the fact that I place our surplus boys in camp in the mountain every vacation.

Bringing in new students every year, the great mass of whom are unacquainted with English, and the boys especially being unskilled and undisciplined for any practical work on farms, or in the communities hereabout, I am compelled to take care of such until they have acquired in the school sufficient understanding

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Summer.

of English, obedience and skill, to make themselves acceptable as farm or other helps among the whites. This ordinarily takes two years for a student coming to the School without previous instruction; and if he has had instruction in an Agency School, I find that it takes nearly as long, because he has not been instructed to work, and there has been in his previous training a great deal of license in the matter of obedience. There are, too, always a number who run down in health.

This year we are caring for upwards of 200 boys during vacation either on the School grounds or at Camp in the mountains - It is quite impossible to find employment for so many; I, therefore, reserved all we could use in the shops, farm work, policing &c. and sent the others into Camp to the number of about 130 - In Camp, under the direction of the disciplinarian they are kept partly

busy fixing up and establishing their camp, policing it, cultivating a little garden, clearing a small patch for this purpose with the consent of the owner; picking huckle and black berries of which the mountains at this season are full, + of which they gather enough to give themselves a plenty, and send to the students remaining at the school sufficient for a meal a day; Making bows + arrows and such trinkets as they can manufacture and sell, thus giving them an opportunity to earn a little spending money and enter somewhat into individual commercial relations with the people hereabout; As a sanitary measure greatly improving the health of those who go into camp; giving them fresh life to begin school work in September; as a means of rousing their commercial spirit, as I have before explained, and giving them the advantage of coming into communication with the

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people hereabout; as a means of wearing down still closer their old clothes, and keeping the devil of idleness away, I consider this camping system the wisest economy and the best of school help.

Five years ago the Department allowed me to buy two Hospital tents and twenty wall tents for this purpose. They are still in fair shape, but not sufficient for our ^{greater} needs. ^{now} The tent flies will enable me to construct a long building, the sides and ends of which can be filled up with ^{brush or} something else.

I have considered it best, on account of the influence exerted, that some of my teachers and others in addition to the disciplinarian should be in camp with the students. The new wall tents I desired for the ladies' use, and the Hospital tent, that, if need be, I might have a little field Hospital.

I have not asked the Department

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any year to pay the expenses to and from
the Camp, which is eleven miles out
on the Smith Mountain Railroad,
having covered these from my Charity ac-
-count, amounting to about one hundred
dollar (\$100.⁰⁰) a year.

I trust that this explanation will
be ample to remove your objection
to granting the authority, and that I
may have your authority to make
these purchases at once.

Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servt.

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Regt.
Supt.