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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
Rec'd MAR 2

1887

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Capt. R. H. Pratt,
Carlisle, Pa.

March 11/1887.

Enc. letter from Supt
Geo W. Barth, Fort
Stoneman School,
asking for one of the
pupils at Harness
Mather and copy of
his letter to Supt
Barth in reply thereto.
States Geo Thomas, Cross
pupil is best qualified
for the place and it is
concluded to order the pu-
pil to report to Supt Barth.
Transportation must be
arranged

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U. S.

copy

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., March 26, 1886.

Geo. W. Scott,

Supt. Ft. Stevenson, Dak. Indian School.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter asking for suitable employees from among our pupils to undertake the management of Tin Shop, Blacksmith, Tailor and Harness Shop for the Industrial departments you are about to establish at your school, I have to inform you that we are not sufficiently advanced with any of our pupils in mechanical instruction to render them capable for the work you have in hand. We have plenty of good young men who have made excellent progress in these several departments, but to make a good instructor out of raw material requires much more time than the six years this school has been in existence, training under the system of half day work and half day school as we do, and there are none of our pupils who have been under training near these six years. About four years is the longest any of our

apprentices have been at work in the shops. Taking out half that period for school room training gives them two years in the shops. You probably know just about what that amount of experience means. The regular apprentice periods for these several trades some years ago were from 3 to 5 years. I, myself, gave four years and eight months of my life, prior to the age of 21, to learn the tinner's trade. From my experience with mechanics I should say not one in five of the juns of our own race who have served regular time would be able to act as instructors for your or my purposes in the School. If then juns regularly graduated would be incompetent, what must be expected of such raw material as these young Indians.

I feel that it is best to lay this matter before you just as I know it to be. We have sent our best apprentices into such places in the different schools, Lawrence, Genoa, Chillicothe & at the Agencies, and many of them are well spoken of, and I can send you young men who can do as well

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as the average Anglo Saxon would with the same training, and they would be glad to go.

In running over our list I find a Sioux, a Sioux from Pine Ridge Agency, and two Cheyennes, who, I think, would fill the places quite as well as those we have sent to other schools, and I will gladly cooperate with you in every way I can to make your undertaking a success.

Very Respectfully Yours

(Signed)

R. H. Pratt

Capt. Supt.

5727

INDIAN OFFICE.

Inclos No /

1887

U. S.

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., Mch. 1. 1887.

To the Hon.

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

Sir:-

I forward herewith a letter from
Supt. Scott, of Ft. Stevenson School, asking
for one of our pupils as Harness-Maker.
In order that you may fully understand
my views in the matter, I send also a
copy of my letter to Supt. Scott, dated
March 26th last.

I find that one of our own pupils
named George Thomas is the best quali-
fied to fill the place. In view of your
letter of Feb. 19th I feel that I have
only to await your instructions. Should
you conclude to order the pupil to report
to Supt. Scott, transportation from
here to Ft. Stevenson will be a necessity,

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but the amount could be retained from his first pay, and this would cover your conclusions not to furnish transportation in such cases.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

R. H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav.
Sept.

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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Fort Stevenson, Dak., Feb 22, 1887

Capt R. H. Pratt
Supt. of Indian Indl. School
Carlisle Pa
Sir:

I have decided to place an Indian in charge of the harness-shop at this school, having obtained permission of the Stor. Com. of Indian Affairs to that effect, and request that you send me one of your most advanced pupils in that trade, as soon as possible. The rate of pay will not be less than \$20. per month or more than \$30. Should you send the pupil immediately, please advise me by telegraph and I will make arrangements to have him met in Bismarck and transported to the school.

Very Respectfully
George W. Scott.
Superintendent