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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
REC'D JAN 25

1888

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Indian Training School
Carlisle Barracks, Pa
Capt. R. H. Pratt, 10th Cav
Sept.

Jan. 24. '88

Suggestions as to
system of selecting
& bringing children
to Training Schools.

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa., Jan'y 2^d 1888.

To the Hon.

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

Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 19th inst., marked Education 344009, giving authority for Wallace Charging Shield and Perry Larabee to come here, and suggesting they might act as escort for some pupils coming to Carlisle, I have to respectfully state that I would not, at present, feel satisfied to leave the selection of students to any one at the Agencies, until some system has been adopted that will secure fair, honest action with reference to the best interests of the service, and I think it better to bring the young men here without attempting to use them as escorts, and

shall proceed to do so, if they are still in mind to come. It is a month since I wrote you for this authority, and I apprehend possibly, probably, they may have been influenced in some other direction, as has been the case heretofore when I have asked authority. The party of 12 I asked authority for from Cheyenne & Arapahoe Agency in November last were captured and taken to Haskell, although it was well known that some of them were old Carlisle pupils who desired to return here.

In reply to your request that I make suggestions in regard to some system of procuring the most suitable pupils for all Training Schools, I would respectfully invite your attention to my letter of April 27, 1885, in which I indicate what

seemed to me then, and does now, the most practical and safe methods. I see no reason why, at the close of each school year at every reservation school, there may not be a promotion of the best pupils from such schools into the Training Schools, and, under proper forms and regulations, the Superintendents of the Agency Schools and the Indian Agents would be as competent judges of those to forward as any one, and their selections being simultaneous, it would not be at all difficult to arrange that parties combine and come forward in large numbers, which would save multiplying escort expenses.

The suggestion in regard to having the Supt. of Schools do this work appears to me a very good one in part, that is, as he visits the different schools it could be made a part of his duties to confer with

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the Supts. and teachers with reference to the students best qualified for such promotion, and he could designate and recommend them to be forwarded to such and such Training Schools at the close of the school year. I think it especially important that all changes be made during vacation, though this would render it impracticable to have the Supt. make up parties. Changes made during the school year are a disturbance in every way; a disturbance to students who are in the harness and going forward with their fellow students; a disturbance to the school from which they are taken, and a disturbance to the Training School. Reservation School Superintendents and teachers could very properly be called upon some time in April or May of each year to designate those of their most

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advanced pupils whom it would be best to send away, and the Muster Rolls filed in the Indian Office, as suggested by my letter of April 27. 1885, would give some of the necessary data to enable the Indian Office to confirm their selections.

Very Respectfully
Your Ht. Servt.

R.H. Pratt
Capt. Supt.