

20051

OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
Rec'd JUL 23

1889.

Louis. L. Robbins
~~N. B. Washburn~~

July 22/89

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Warehouse: Nos. 63 and 67 Wooster Street,
New York

Replies to
your letter re to
charges of neglect
in shipping goods
to Carlisle
Ariz.

Copy to R. H. Pratt Aug 1st 89

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INDIAN OFFICE.

20051

Inclos No.

1889.

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Telegrams

Carlisle Pa Oct 31, 1888

Jno T & Wilton Supt. Govt Warehouse
65-7 Wooster St. N.Y.

Please have our Sole Leather sent forward as soon
as possible

Pratt, Supt.

Carlisle Pa Nov. 14, 1888.

J R. Wilborn.

65 & 67 Wooster St N.Y.

Please push forward as rapidly as possible our
tinner's supplies and tin plate

R. H. Pratt,

Carlisle Pa Jan'y 25, 1889

John R Wilton

Supt Govt Warehouse

65 and 67 Wooster St N.Y.

Please hasten delivery of twelve hundred pounds
washing soda asked for on annual estimate

R. H. Pratt

Captain.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Warehouse: Nos. 63 and 67 Wooster Street,

New York,

July 22nd, 1889.

Hon. Commissioner
of Indian Affairs,
Washington;

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th inst., transmitting a copy of one from Capt. R. H. Pratt, Supt. oc., dated the 15th, in which he calls attention to the neglect of this office in forwarding invoices for shipments made to his school, and instances the case of a car-load of sugar and coffee received by him on the date of his letter.

In reply to this, I have to say that the invoices in question were forwarded

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either on the 15th or 16th - as soon as transporters receipts for the shipments could be obtained.

Capt. Pratt says, further, that it has often happened that he failed to receive invoices for more than a month after the arrival of goods.

In this I presume he alludes to former seasons. As I cannot speak from personal knowledge, I can only state that I am informed that invoices have invariably been forwarded at stated periods each week - at least three times a week, and often daily, as occasion required. I have no reason to doubt this statement. If he failed to get invoices until the lapse of a month or longer after

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shipments, the fault could not have been with this office, but must be charged to some other cause.

Referring to his letter of the 10th instant, a copy of which you mailed to me on the 16th, I have to say that certain supplies for the Carlisle School for the present year, had already been ordered for shipment, in advance of any others, on written shipping directions, without waiting for this seasons printed directions, which are yet in the printers hands.

In reply to Capt. Pratt's statement of the same date, that "we
"are bothered every year by delays in
"delivery of our annual supplies. The
"past year, some articles estimated

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"for more than a year before, were not
"delivered until January, and I wrote
"many letters to New York urging
"specially the forwarding of articles
"needed at the time," I beg to say
that I have personally examined
the records of the office and find that
two bales of blankets were shipped to
the Carlisle School on January 4th
last, which, I presume, is the case re-
ferred to by Capt. Pratt. For this
late shipment, this office was in no
way responsible, the cause therefor
being well known to your office.

In relation to the "many letters"
written to this office by Capt. Pratt,
"urging specially the forwarding of arti-
"cles needed at the time," I have to

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say that in this case I have also personally examined the office files, and find three telegrams, (copies inclosed,) viz: Oct. 31/88 - asking that sole-leather be sent forward soon as possible; Nov. 14/88 - requesting that tinners-supplies be hurried forward, (these were Chicago delivery,) and Jan'y. 25/89 - in relation to washing soda, (in this case there was no contract,) but I find no letters amongst the files, nor is there evidence of any.

From the commencement of the shipping season to the end, a period of four months or more, this office is pushed daily from 7³⁰ a.m. often to 5³⁰ or 6 p.m. Each day during that time goods are received

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from contractors, and shipped as soon after inspection as possible. Goods cannot be ordered and received by agencies or schools. This would be as impracticable as for you office to set apart certain days of the week for corresponding with all its agents upon special subjects, without regard to other subjects of equal or paramount importance. This work cannot be done in a day or a week or a month, and for these reasons some agencies and schools must inevitably be amongst the last in the season in receiving some portion of their supplies.

If it be decided that goods for the Carlisle School shall be spe-

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cially ordered and shipped, I shall
be glad to have your instructions
to that effect; otherwise they will
have to take their chances with
the rest.

Very respectfully
Louis L Robbins
Superintendent.