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OFFICE OF
INDUSTRIAL
RECORDS
DEC 17 1889

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Capt. R. N. Pratt,

Carlisle School,

Dec. 6, 1889,

Report concerning
certain returned stu-
dents

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File

From Capt. Pratt-
about returned students.

Personal or official
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

Dec. 6th. 1889.

36167
Hon. Thomas J. Morgan,

Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Genl.

Replying to yours of yesterday in regard to statement made by a public Official, that while on a visit to Cheyenne & Arapahoe Agency he learned that two students formerly of Carlisle or Hampton were living in polygamy, and that others, who were unwilling to work, had returned to school in order to be supported by the Government in idleness, I have to respectfully inform you, that I have had information during the past year that Robert Burns, a Cheyenne, who came here Sept. 6. 1880, and left June 21. 1881, and afterwards spent five years at Wabash College, Ind. graduating therefrom, soon after he went home married one of our returned girls, and after living with her a while gave her up and took another girl, with whom he has been living since; in both instances being governed by the laws prevailing at the Agency. Also that Jessa Bent, a Cheyenne, who came here Feb. 3. 1881, and returned home June 17, 1884, had at different times two or three wives, but is now, and has for some time been legally married and living with one wife. Since his return Jessa has been almost continuously issue clerk for the Agent. Tom Carlisle, a Cheyenne, was here from Oct. 27, 79, to July 1st. 1882. He married Ella Hippi, one of our girls who came

96167
here and returned to the Agency at the same time as Carlisle. The father got to using his girls to make money at the Fort. Ella was found with the others and Tom quit her and married a again. He did well at times, and badly at other times. He came back to Carlisle in Oct. last. If he did it to escape work and get supported by the Government in idleness, he made a mistake, for I sent him at once to the country, where he is doing well, earning \$8.00 a month. A few days ago I had a letter from his farm employer saying that he had improved and his wages would be raised to \$10.00. With Tom came three others, aged from 23 to 27, who had been at other schools, Haskell or White's Institute. They may, like Tom, have come here to escape work and burden the Govt. with their support, but I sent them all to farms, where they earn their own living and, so far, have done well. Paul Boynton, Arapahoe, returned home last July. I am told he has a wife of his own tribe and one from the Cheyennes. Just what his status now is I do not know.

In regard to Jessa Bent, his grandfather, a white man who traded with the Cheyennes many years ago, was notoriously polygamous. His father and uncle were also notoriously so. The grandfather was an educated man, but whether educated in the same school as the Official who brings this complaint or not, I do not know. Both the Bent boys were well educated by the Catholics in St. Louis. We have had three, quarter breed Bents in this school, the children of one father and none of

36167
them full brothers and sisters. The mothers of all of them are, as far as I know, all living. In regard to Paul Boynton, I inclose two letters from him; one written just before he left Carlisle, the other some time after he arrived at home. By the latter you will see something of the pull down influence of the old men of the tribes on returned pupils.

Brigham Young was an educated white man and the highest representative of polygamy in the country, Indians not excepted. It would be quite as reasonable to make an argument against schools, using Brigham Young as an example, as it is to use the cases referred to.

The above named semblances of polygamy are all I have heard of, but there may be others. We have sent back to the Cheyenne & Arapahoe Agency 136 pupils, who had been here for longer or shorter periods. A considerable proportion of these came back to us, or went to Haskell or other schools. In 1887 I sent my Mr. Standing to that Agency and had careful inquiries made as to the status of our returned students. By far the largest part were doing as well, ^{as,} or even better, than we could hope for under the influence of their low surroundings. I have never thought that a few weak and imperfectly educated boys and girls could, with any material success, stem the current of tribal influence on the reservations. The wonder is, not that a few fail, but that so many are even partially

Commr.

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successful.

Yours sincerely,

R.H. Pratt
Capt.

36167

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Therapeutic work is still less known than in the West
 these tribes, ancient times, believed that the earth was composed
 of four elements, earth, water, air, and fire.

and used them, especially in cases where the patient
 refused all the ordinary measures with good results
 some were also with little success with the use of roots
 of the kind used and others, small roots like
 with various uses in cases where the patient refused - even

- for example, and these were
 known to be used with good results

These tribes were
 in the West.

Carlisle Pa. Nov. 23rd 1889

Supt. R. H. Pratt

Supt. Indian School

Carlisle Pa.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of my connection with the returned students at Cantonment I. Y. where I acted as Issue Clerk for over two years -

Being previously engaged as a Teacher in the Agency Schools I was particularly interested in the advancement of the returned Indian students, believing from personal observation, that the cause of their retrogression where it occurred, was due more to the general disinterestedness of employees toward them and their unwillingness to render them any special assistance, than it was the fault of the pupils, who have to encounter the temptations of camp life with its idleness and sin, as well as stand much abuse from their own people.

My position at Cantonment afforded me the opportunity of finding out what educated Indians could accomplish if encouraged and helped.

I called the Young Men together and they all expressed an earnest desire to work and make homes for themselves; And we organized a Young Men's Aid Society by which they resolved to strike out anew, save their money, and help one another.

There are but few positions on a Reservation, where the boys could earn money, and they were unable to start farms having no suitable work stock.

Their only chance to make any head-way was to procure mules or oxen, with which they could plow their fields, haul freight and make money.

They were not "prevailed" upon to buy mules, but were only too anxious. And it was after many unsuccessful attempts that we found any persons who would sell stock to Indians on time without the least security.

During two years the young men including

Hail and Star, (formerly Florida prisoners) purchased thirty nine head of mules at a cost of \$50 to \$100 each, according to size, some paying as high as 10% interest, and others no interest. The freight generally arrived at Caldwell and Oklahoma City in the Fall when the roads were bad, and on account of the Indian pony teams being unable to haul at that time, hundreds of dollars went into the pockets of white freighters.

I am glad to inform you that your returned students with others, were able to haul all the freight for 1100 Indians at Cantonment, during last Fall and Winter, and considerable for the Agency.

When I left Cantonment last June they had paid on their teams \$2365.00, and were only owing \$1242.00.

Five of them with our help had built good substantial log houses, and planted orchards,

while most of the others had farms started and logs cut for their houses -

With their mule teams they also assisted the older Indians in hauling logs for their houses, we having constructed twenty six houses for the other Indians.

They also hauled rock a distance of 15 miles, to complete the new commissary at Cantonment free of charge, there being no appropriation for the hauling -

Some of them are out of debt - Robert Sandhill paid for his 4 mules, wagon, etc, in less than one year, besides purchasing some cattle, hogs and poultry - He resigned his position as herder in order to give his whole time to farming and freighting, long before I left Cantonment, and before Mr. Ashley was appointed Agent.

Mr. Ashley is mistaken in saying he discharged him for disobedience -

I found most of the boys, obedient, industrious and progressive, but often requiring a kind word of encouragement, when their pathway seemed

darkened by their people who tried in many ways to hinder their progress.

Two years ago the majority of these young men were in idleness, not that they wanted to be, but because they saw no way of avoiding it.

I left them possessors of good mule teams, nearly two thirds out of debt (collectively speaking) with no difficulty in the way of their paying the balance in the near future, and well on the way to make good homes for themselves.

I regret that Agent Ashley considers that I injudiciously helped those Indians, and I hope he will become better informed as to the facts of the case.

The sum of the whole transaction is, that the boys bought teams without money. The teams in a short time pay for themselves, the owners only giving their time. Robert Sandhill's teams have earned a sum equal to twice their original cost and are worth to-day the amount he paid, without his having to pay out one cent of capital.

Would a business man call that a poor investment?
I suppose they had not bought said teams, what would
they possess to-day? The salaries which a few
of them would receive as employees, would have been
spent by their numerous relations, at the Traders'
stores, and the money which they are now earning
with their teams, would have been paid to white
men. They would ^{have} been in a worse condition than
they were two years ago.

I have the honor to remain

Your obedient servant
G.W. Potter