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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
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May 14th 1890

Wright J. Geo.
U. S. Indian Agent

*Reports in regard to his efforts to
obtain pupils for "Carlisle."*

To Agent May 22/90

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UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Rosebud Agency, South Dak.

May 14th, 1890.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir,

Referring to Office letter "E", dated April 29th, in regard to obtaining pupils for Carlisle, I have the honor to report, that I have been unable, to present time, to induce any number of boys and girls to go to Carlisle.

I had endeavored to secure a class, before receipt of Office letter of March 10th, immediately after assuming charge in October last, and directed my Superintendent and teachers to impress upon the children the advantages of a more thorough and advanced training; I also talked with parents, it being my desire to obtain, if possible, one of the brightest and most advanced boys and girl, from each school, but without success.

Since receipt of instructions I have renewed my endeavors to the utmost of my ability, with the assistance of my Superintendent, to comply with your desire, and have visited the various camps several times for this purpose, also sending for and tal-

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king privately with the parents. While some few children at first reluctantly, partially agreed, when again visited with my Agency Physician, refused positively; in no case have parents given consent and in almost every instance absolutely refused to permit them to go. Teachers inform me that those who first assented, and afterwards refused, have since attended school more regularly, fearing they would be compelled to go. My physician also informs me that under the requirements of Office letter of March 10 th, he has not yet examined any children who would pass the necessary examination, nearly all ~~being~~ having been affected by the prevailing influenza the past winter and otherwise are unfit to pass examination.

From my past knowledge and present experience I am of Opinion that it will be extremely difficult and doubtful, if any can be induced to go to eastern schools. Unfortunately a large number heretofore sent from this Agency have either died there, or soon after returning home, several being returned in the last stages of illness. The Indians cannot be led to believe, the result might have been the same under other circumstances; comparatively few children here, are without some taint of scrofula

The answer to me has invariably been, " We have been promi-

sed a boarding school; Why do we not have it, same as other Agencies, and so avoid the necessity of asking us to send our children away."

I am forced to the opinion that if it is desired to send any away hereafter, some compulsory means or influential inducement must be adopted and the brightest children only taken.

The physician now at Carlisle (Dr. Grinnell) was for several years stationed at this and Pine Ridge Agencies, is well and favorably acquainted with these Indians, also with the climate west and east, and is best able to judge who would be most likely to be fitted to change of climate, and from personal knowledge could best explain the advantages and workings of the school to this people. I would therefor respectfully suggest the advisability of having him come to select suitable pupils, although as stated in my letter of March 24th, Dr. Given visited this Agency for such purpose and after an effort of three weeks assisted by the Agent, visiting every camp, not a single child was obtained, showing the opposition to sending to this or other eastern schools.

If desired, that I should continue my efforts to secure pupils, I would respectfully ask how many or lowest number can be

sent at one time, and if mixed bloods will be acceptable or may be included and the proportion necessary of boys and girls. It may be possible sometimes to obtain the consent of both parents and child to perhaps two or four, could these be immediately sent forward, while if retained to secure a larger number these often change their mind and resist every persuasion to go; if small numbers can be sent I would ask for instructions to that effect with transportation for pupils and escort.

Very Respectfully,

Your obed't servant,

J. Geo Wright
U.S. Indian Agent.