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OFFICE OF  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Rec'd JUN 2

1890

Indian Training School

Carlisle Barracks

R. H. Pratt, Capt. Supt.

May 31 '90.

In ref. to new students,  
no wanted. From what  
points &c.

*R. H. Pratt*

Capt. 10, Cav, V  
Supt.

*W. H. ...*

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*File*

Very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

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hides.

September of last or December would be the next best opportunity  
the month of June, before the schools disband, falling of this  
to make the transfer, so far as the Indians are concerned, is  
the less attractive than at other times. The very best time  
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RECORDED & INDEXED

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,  
CARLISLE, PA.

May 31, 1890.

To the Honorable,  
The Com'r of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.,

Sir:

Referring to your letter of May 29, marked "Education" relative to new pupils for the ensuing year I have the honor to state, that in order to carry out your expressed desire of working this school to its full complement of 1000 students, we shall need about 300 new pupils during the coming year.

Our present numbers are 778. Of these about 75 will return home this Summer leaving us 300 short of the 1000.

As to the points from which these could best be obtained, or from which applications have been received, I have reason to think that there could be a good party organized at White Earth Agency, Minn.(including its sub-agencies) to come early in July. I think this from the conditions found to exist there last year and by more recent information.

Word comes from the Oneidas of Wisconsin, Chippewas and Ottawas of the northern part of Michigan, Nez Perces of Idaho, Piegans, Blackfeet, Gros Ventres of Ft. Belknap Agency and some

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probability exists of an additional party from Ft. Peck; also from the Omahas and Winnebagoes of Nebraska.

Intimations from all of the above points have been received within the past few months of those who were desirous of coming to Carlisle, but nothing definite as to numbers from any point. This school has always had a strong representation from the Pueblos of New Mexico and would desire to maintain its relations there; also with Indian Territory points for some advanced students.

In regard to the suggestions invited, I respectfully refer you to my letter of Dec. 11, 1888, in which the points most needed to be regarded are mentioned, viz:—ages, boys 14 and over, girls 12 and upwards, with as nearly as possible equal numbers of the sexes. Sound physical and mental conditions to be carefully looked after, also moral character, no incorrigibles.

Proficiency in reading, writing and speaking English might well form a condition of transfer to this school, so that the majority might be able to reach the graduating point within the 5 years' term, with a uniform term for all schools.

For the present until the system of transfers at stated periods is in working order, the standard required to make eligible for transfer might be low, making the system for the present more important than the standard, and the probability of a transfer be held up as a recognition of merit and ability

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To this end each Superintendent of an Agency school might make and always keep open for additional names, a list of those qualified by scholarship and otherwise for transfer, indicating in addition which ones were desirous of going to a distant school and have their parents' consent so to do, and submit the lists to the Department so that arrangements could be made for transportation.

It would seem desirable that as many as possible of those who are interested in agency school work should be used as escorts in order to give them an opportunity <sup>of visiting</sup> a large Indian school and observing its work.

From past experience in receiving students selected by others than our own agents we would be fearful that the amount of poor material would be increased by so doing and very specific instructions will be needed as to qualifications necessary.

A comparison of the cost of the work of Carlisle with other schools closer to the reservations will show greatly in favor of Carlisle, demonstrating that the distance from reservations does not necessarily increase expense of education.

It is a question of students transportation each way once in five years, or the transportation of five years' supplies to, the student. I think a minute calculation would show that cheapness, even in first cost, lays with bringing the student

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to the supplies, besides other great advantages that accrue from location. If such a system of transfer were inaugurated the whole service would be benefitted, as a uniform system of grading and text books would naturally follow, and those school which are thoroughly equipped could make their work far more productive by using their appliances on the more receptive and capable material.

I think more expense would be incurred by attempting to concentrate large numbers at given points than by sending parties of 20 or 30 right through. There would be unforeseen delays and failures to meet, and the consequent cost of boarding and incidental expenses of travel be increased.

The many years experience that we have had in this matter teach that the best results have been obtained by a representative thoroughly acquainted with the details of the school and its regulations, going out to the various points, co-operating with the authorities in selecting the party, forwarding immediately under suitable escort and then going to other points in like manner.

The period, July to September is an unfortunate one, as the whole country has to be travelled over to find the students, who are at this time scattered in their various homes, many perhaps never to return to any school at all. The Summer season is also the pleasant out door period and school

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life less attractive than at other times. The very best time to make the transfer, so far as the Indians are concerned, is the month of June, before the schools disband, failing of this September or last of December would be the next best opportunities.

Very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

*R.H. Pratt*

Capt. 10, Cav' y  
Supt.

Per-

*A.J. Standing*

Ass' t Supt.,

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*Handwritten notes and signatures in the left margin, including names like 'A. J. Standing' and 'R. H. Pratt'.*

*Red ink scribbles or markings at the bottom right of the page.*