27/18th
Indian Training School,
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Capt. R. H. Pratt, 1st Cav.

July 8, 1890

Suggestions regarding the Rules for Indian Schools.
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

July 8th, 1890.

Hon. T. J. Morgan,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Dear General:

I have read and here return the Rules for Indian Schools, and at your instance have proposed a few alterations and additions as you can see. What seems lacking to me about them is that which I object to in your plan for a public school system for the Indians. As you know, I believe that all our work for the Indian should lead him away from his tribe and into our life. No work that we do for him has at all the this power to do that the School work has. Nothing is plainer to me now, nor has been plainer to me all these years than that we make a great mistake in expecting to reach citizenship a long a line which works against that as purely Indian schools and especially tribal schools do, because of their segregating character. Public school with our own children, and personal association with our own people, not with a solitary teacher here and there, or with an Agent or farmer, but with the great mass of our own people, presents to me the only promise of success. Indian children can be taught something of books upon the Agencies, but that they can there acquire the skill, courage and confidence that will enable them to strike
out as individuals into the American life and get along by
themselves without the constant supervision of Missionaries,
Agents and others of our own race, is not to be expected if
common sense and experience are worth anything.

Years ago, I said, every school, whether Agency or distant,
should do all it could to get its children out among the
whites and into the Public Schools. If we build up a system
of public schools among the Sioux such as may be built up
under the treaty which has been made with them, and the money
which will be given, we shall merely produce a Sioux nation,
separate and apart from our own nation, differing and confli-
ing all the time.

Transfers to remote schools should occupy an important
place in the Rules.

More careful separation of the sexes out of school hours
should be provided for.

The work that falls to the girls is too heavy, unless
the proportions and size of girls can be much larger. Here
I must use good strong boys for our kitchen work and it is
the same in large schools at Agencies.

Some night inspection by employees should be organized
against fire in the buildings and against conduct of students.
I have a guard, "and make the rounds", or have my employees do
so at odd times at night.

It is of great importance that there should be strict regulation as to the crowding of students in school, and directing a minimum limit of air space. Many Indian children have been injured and some lives lost by over-crowding.

The principle of promotion among employees for competent work should be established in the service. Save the experienced. The curse of the service has been change of employees and continual change of plan.

There should be careful and general examinations at least twice a year, and promotions of students be made on the basis of such examinations.

With great respect,

Yours sincerely,

Capt. & Supt.