

21424

OFFICE

INDIAN AFFAIRS

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1890

27/197  
Indian Training School,

Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Capt. R. H. Pratt 10<sup>th</sup> Cavry, Dept

July 9. 1890.

Forwarding letter from  
J. H. Seger, who controls a colony  
of Indians on the Canadian  
River, I. T.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,  
CARLISLE, PA.

July 9th, 1890.

21424  
Hon. T. J. Morgan,  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I forward herewith letter from Mr. J.H. Seger, who has charge of a colony of Indians on the Canadian River, belonging to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Agency, Indian Territory, His propositions are respectfully submitted and recommended to you with the following remarks:

Mr. Seger is one of the best men at managing Indians, and affairs of this kind, that I have ever known. He is untiring in his industry and in executing his own plans, and I believe he can carry out what he proposes, so long as he remains in charge of the Indians or has the management. When, however, there comes a change and Mr. Seger's work falls to some one else with less energy and less disposition along these lines, the same Indians in my judgment will be back into the ration condition in no time, Carlisle students or not.

To expect that young Indians, or any Indians can break away from such a pension system as we have established at the Agencies and assume the high plane of self-support and independence--when they are just as much entitled to rations and

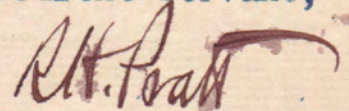
2 Hon. T.J.Morgan.

annuities as their fellows and expect them to live in the constant presence of such a ration system, and do this, is unreasonable.

John Smith who was in the war applies for and receives a pension. James Jones, who was in the same Company, says I have just as good a right to a pension as John Smith, and he applies for it and gets it.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R.H. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Capt. & Supt.

2142A

United States Indian Service,

1 Seger Colony Agency,

July 1890

Capt R. H. Pratt

Dear sir

Since some of the returned  
Students living at this Colony  
have bin writing to you  
I will write also in regard  
to the same subjects which  
they have bin writing about  
First how ar they getting on?  
of the fine boys or young  
men that bin at Carlisle and  
ar now at this Colony some of  
them ar getting on better than  
the savage camp Indians the ar  
now ar doing better than any time  
in the past though I have

always offered them the same assistance  
they are getting now These four  
boys are ready now to receive  
Some help that would be of  
great benefit to them. and  
by helping them it would help  
these people yet the help should  
be given very judiciously or  
it might work like Medison  
given in a over dose might do  
more harm than good now  
as strange as it may seem  
these four boys should not  
all be helped alike although  
they are all Indians and all live  
on the same Reservation and all  
draw Rations on the same kind  
of a ticket

get they each have a diferant Indiv  
idually and they should be treated  
as Indiv<sup>iduals</sup> ~~iduals~~ not as Indians in this  
way they would forget to a great  
extent that they wer Indians and  
would act like persons who had  
some Indiv<sup>idual</sup> work to do

That work should be first to gain  
their own living then suport their families  
then lay up for Old age and hard  
times How should we asist them  
to do this Some would say by  
giving them a Start I say give  
them nothing How then can we  
help them do it this way Take  
a returned Boy that has bin at home  
at least one or two years and  
has in the face of his difoultys  
has acumulated some propertey by  
his own persanal eforts he is now  
in a position to be helped

to illustrate how I would do  
 this I will first Name Henry North  
 he has a farm opend up a small  
 comfortable hous 20 acs fenced fine  
 acs of Wheat in the stock more  
 than enough to Bread his family one  
 year and furnish his seed about 8 head  
 of Cattel a good garden Now if the  
 Government would place in his hands  
 a good span of Mares weighing about  
 1100<sup>+</sup> each they would cost about \$200

Wagon & harness	75
8 head of Cows with calvs	120
	<hr/> \$ 95

Six months after he received them  
 he could release the Government from  
 the expence of Psumg Rations and annaty. to  
 his Family yet untill in this way  
 he had saved to the government as much  
 as was advanced him the Government should  
 hold a lien on this property he should  
 not be allowed to sell or barter it  
 and should take such care

of the property as The Agent in Charge  
Should direct the above plan would  
Solve the problem as far as Henry  
and his family was concerned

Now we will take Jah Sege  
He has about 20 acres sowed and  
under cultivation wheat in the shock  
enough to Bread his family of  
four persons one year furnish his seed  
with some to sell he has a good garden  
and Cots enough to feed a team one  
year he has a good frame house  
18 head of cattle he has had no  
better chance than any other Bay  
could have had if they would avail  
them selves of it. Jah will Release

the Governmant from feeding his family  
of four persons If the Governmant will  
Advance him a good Span of

young Mares Weighing 1200 <sup>lb</sup> each	2.00 <sup>00</sup>
1 Sett Work Harness	25 <sup>00</sup>
10 head of Cows with Calves by side	160 <sup>00</sup>
	<u>2385<sup>00</sup></u>



now If the Comissioner will advance  
 these boys the help I have named  
 they will sign a contract to suport  
 their famoly with out every help from  
 the governem except schooling for  
 their chaldren. and perhaps some seeds  
 for the first years crop You may  
 think It is asking to much at once  
 but I think not there is no use  
 in half helping every one the  
 Motto of the Redd man is God  
 helps him he helps him self these  
 boys have helped them self yet  
 I dont consider them really helped untill  
 they ar cut off from the Comissionary  
 If I can get such help as I have  
 mentioned above for four or five  
 of my Indians with the understanding  
 that they should suport them selves in  
 another year, after I had demonstrated  
 that an Indian can come his own

living I could get 20 other young  
 men to exicpt the same kind of  
 an appr. The Polosy of plarung  
 all of the Indians in one boat  
 and starting them on a voige for  
 Sivolisatiod with self suport as  
 there landing place It will be  
 found that the qinske the boat  
 is run on to a Rock and every an  
 has to paddel to keaf his own head  
 above watter the soover they will get  
 to fort How much Better to select  
 out some of the most Industrious and  
 entoprusing young men put them in  
 a shape so they can help them selve  
 and thus see that they do so every  
 year add more to their numbers untill  
 all are self suporting Henry & Jah  
 are Ready to take their Land in  
 Serralley every time the Sovere will give it  
 too them

I cannot see as the Cheyenne  
 & Arapahoe as in fact they now  
 self support theirs they was 16  
 years ago it is true they earn  
 a great deal freighting and raise  
 some grain yet they are costing the  
 government the same or more fifteen  
 years ago they earned more hunting  
 Buffalo than they do now at work  
 and I think excited them selves more  
 to do it. But lett the Government  
 treat them as individuals and put a  
 few in a position so it will be possible  
 for them to make theirs own living  
 If those boys and a few others  
 I have in mind could be helped  
 as I have elustrated above I would  
 expect to have to give them a great  
 deal of attention and advice and  
 encouragement and watchful care  
 yet theirs success would do  
 more in the way of an Object  
 lesson to teache the other Indians

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than if the time was spent  
directly with them I dont know  
as this letter will meet your  
apoval as I have written it ~~was~~  
uninvited I dont know as you  
will thank me for writing it  
(I am shure I dont want you  
to) But if this Plan which I have  
given meets your aproval and  
the Comisour means buisness  
and wants to do something that  
will shae prastal results and  
Shoe them quash. If he will adopt  
the plan I have given of helping the  
Indians I will see that this end of  
the program is cared out to the  
letter while I Carey the Fee to the  
Comisoury For serial years  
I have in ~~sent~~ my reports his answer  
Such questions as How many Indians how  
comenced farming? How many arse ground  
plowed &c I would like to comence  
to answer the Question How many

Indians are earning their own living  
and living on what they earn.  
I have written the above to show  
how the matter looks from my  
stand point

With Regards I am yours  
Very Respectfully  
J. Dege