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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS
Rec'd OCT 2

1890

Capt. R. H. Pratt,
Carlisle School.

Sept. 29, 1890.

Reply to letter of
Sept. 26, rel. to
plans and specifics
for exhibit to be
made at the Colum-
bian Exhibition.

1 my

See letter to Taylor Oct. 1/90

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

September 29, 1890.

To the Honorable,

The Com'r of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.,

Sir:

Replying to your letter of September 26, marked "M#," reply hastened by your telegram of this date, I have to respectfully inform you that I have under way plans and specifications, covering so far as I can in a preliminary way the points of information desired. These I can forward in three or four days.

I estimate that a space of 5000 ft. exclusive of aisles and passage ways would be as small a portion as the Indian Department feature could well get on with; and that we should have an allowance of \$250,000 for the purpose. Later I will furnish you with ^{more detailed} the whole exhibit and suggestions in regard to desks, drawers, pigeon holes &c.

From the nature of the event celebrated the Indian Department exhibit should be very full, and no expense should be spared to make it a complete showing of our Indian history from the days of Columbus to the present. It should show

1st. The period of our history in which the settlers were dependent on the forbearance of the Indians; illustrating this by a large wall map showing the whole country as Indian except the few

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white settlements say 1565 to 1620.

2nd. The period when the whites entered regularly on the occupation of the country and by force or purchase obtained large possessions, as by King Philip's war and Penn's treaty.

3rd. Later Colonial period and early National to the removal of Cherokees west of the Mississippi and Seminole war.

4th. The Indians as dependent on the Government for protection, placed on restricted areas and partly supported by Government.

5th. Present policy of dealing with Indians, by education, training in agriculture and other industries leading to citizenship and absorption into the masses.

These several periods to be suitably illustrated by specimens showing original habitations, dress, weapons, implements and utensils; also by a series of wall maps prepared on an extensive scale, charts of condensed information and such good pictures illustrating incidents in national Indian history as it may be practicable to procure ~~from~~ by borrowing from owners.

A considerable portion of the space should be devoted to the native Indian Department, including specimens of Indian art, picture writing and Indian agricultural exhibits collected from the whole country. Progress in Handicraft through every part of the service should be well illustrated, not omitting girls' and women's work.

The Indian educational feature will require a large space, and

Com'r, 3

and every school of importance have a share. Photography should be extensively used to present schools and their work. The results of Indian education and the capabilities of the race should be presented, not only by specimens but by living examples. There could be boys working at several trades, girls cutting and making clothing, and engaged in other feminine occupations. A school room equipped and in working order, students reciting at intervals would be most impressive. A printing office worked by Indian boys would be not only attractive but most useful to distribute information. What the Mexican band was to the New Orleans Exhibition an Indian Band can and ought to be to the Columbian.

The exhibit should be historical and utilitarian, exhibiting the Indian both as an historical and present factor of our national life and by no means purely or mainly from a scientific or ethnological stand point; that properly belongs to other time and place. In this connection I enclose copy of my letter to President Palmer of the Columbian Commission to which he gave a brief and very favorable response.

The exhibit should be handled by those connected with and interested in the work of the Indian Department of the Government, and not by some outside scientist.

As we are coming into closer relations with the latin States of America and they will have Indian exhibits it would educate them and us more if their and our several exhibits were contiguous.

4 Com'r

Very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

R.H. Poatt

Capt. 10, Cav'y,

Supt.

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OCT 18 1880
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

*Very respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,
R.H. Poatt
Capt. 10, Cav'y,
Supt.*

*See letter to
Supt. 10/18/80*

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INDIAN OFFICE.

1890.

Encls. No.

3--Hon. T. W. Palmer

the consequent overthrow of the tribe, desire to make a full ex-
 hibit of the better side, and look to your honorable Commission
 that we be not hampered. I trust you will give us a special
 and friendly committee, well acquainted with the various phases
 of the Indian's present condition, who, though from necessity
 granting all the parade of the Indian as a savage necessary to
 the historical representations designed to be commemorated will
 also for the sake of the race, and the truth of history as well
 insist on the more potential and humane showing of his abilities
 and progress in the lines of civilization and self-support.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10 Cav'y., U. S. A.

Supt.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLETON, PA.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

August 8, 1890.

Hon. Thomas W. Palmer,
Prest. World's Columbian Commission,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

I venture to suggest to you and to your honorable Commission that as the historical demands of your great exhibition will require that the Indian be given a prominent place, you do not allow him to come before the world as a savage only, but that you give equal or larger chance to those features of his case showing his progress in civilization. Our exparte school and other histories aided by Buffalo Bill shows, have so disordered and debased the public mind in regard to the Indian as to make his lot a reproach upon the nation. He is allowed no place with the rest of us. If people knew his real nature and capacity better, his way out of savagery and into civilization would be much easier and far more rapid. The Exposition of which you are the honored head happens at an opportune time and will afford privileges to make known these better qualities and capacities of the Indian, which, if rightly used may and will bring about great changes in his favor.

We who are laboring for Indian citizenship and progress, and

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With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10 Cav'y., U. S. A.

Supt.