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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Rec'd MAR 7

1891

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Indian Training Sch., Carlisle, Pa

29/48

Capt R H Pratt, 10th Cav'y. Supt

March 5th, 1891.

Reporting information regard-
ing Ralph Eagle Feather,
of Rosebud Agency.

1 inc

Forward to Ray
2 R. E. Feather Mch 19/91

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

March 5th, 1891.

To The Hon.,

Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

In reply to

Yours of 3rd inst., marked "Education, 6842/91" enclosing letter from Ralph W. Eagle Feather, of Rosebud Agency, which you refer for my information, with the request to be informed whether or not any employment can be given the young man among my patrons, I have to respectfully advise you that I have no doubt I could do good things for Ralph Eagle Feather if I could keep him here at this school, but there is such pull upon him at the agency as makes that practically impossible. On his return to the agency in 1882, he was not only provided with work by the then excellent agent, Mr. Wright, the elder, but it was also arranged that he should have a little house near the agent, in which he and his wife lived nicely. He received \$30.00 a month for working at his trade as carpenter. When his pay came, his father and ~~xxxxxxx~~ mother, with a very large family of children and some other relations knew it. They came in on a visit, and by both the description of Ralph and his wife they were cumbered

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by their visitors to an almost unbearable degree. They not only slept in the house but around outside of the house until Ralph's money was all gone; each one had to have some little present from the traders, and of course they had to be fed extras. Ralph wrote me at the time very discouragingly of his efforts. At the end of the next quarter the same thing happened, and at the end of the third quarter it was repeated, when Ralph picked up his family, left the agency and went to Pine Ridge, where he was employed as assistant to the farmer. During the time of Ralph's work at Rosebud, I visited that agency, and Mr. Wright was pleased to remark that if the Carlisle school had only produced one full blooded Indian with as much capacity as Ralph had developed in three years, that it had more than paid for its establishment. He was at Pine Ridge some time, but I do not know how long. During his service there I visited that agency, and though he had to some extent thrown off the burdens of communism he was still at a disadvantage because of his friends, and both he and his wife begged me to allow them to come back to Carlisle with the understanding that they would go out into the country and take employment. Both said that they would rather come to Carlisle and die there than remain where they were. After arrival here, Ralph was not willing to work at anything but

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his trade, and the Trades Unions were in the way as well as a lack of business then, and it was not possible to get him employment in his line outside of the school at that time.

I could have given him a good country home where both he and his wife might have gone on and done well. Not being able to give Ralph just the position he desired, and he having some inducements from Rosebud, he returned there after being here something less than a year. The next I heard of him was that he had gone away with Buffalo Bill. His is a strong character, suffering somewhat from the misfortune of the principle we were compelled to adopt in the start of returning the students at the end of three years. Had Ralph remained here five or more years he would have started with a great deal better ballast. The fact that he has learned to express himself so well (this is a fair sample of all his letters since he returned home in 1882) shows his ability.

I write this history of him for your information, and in reply to your inquiry I have to say that it would be an easy matter for me to find Ralph a place where both he and his wife could have farm employment. It might be practicable to get him a place in the lines of his trade, in some of the shops here or in this neighborhood. I am willing to try. Carpenters are in demand in the west, and if he will

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leave the reservation he may easily do well.

Ralph's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,



Capt. 10th Cav'y.,

Sup't.