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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

1891

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Indian Training School, Carlisle, Pa

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Capt. R. H. Pratt, 10th Cav. Regt. Sept.

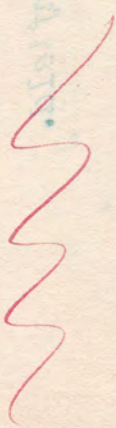
June 12th, 1891.

Sailors for Fort Totten
Training School.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

June 12th, 1891.

The Honorable,

Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Replying to your letter of 8th inst., marked "Education, 20086," in reference to a tailor for Supt. Canfield, at the Fort Totten Training School, I have to respectfully enclose herewith copy of a letter written by me to Sup't. Canfield in reference to other positions which he proposed to fill with Indians. I have a young Comanche, named Eustace Esapoyhet, who is a very fair tailor, considering his opportunities and who could alter, repair and even make (over patterns) and could handle boys fairly well. He would undoubtedly be glad to go to Fort Totten for the salary of \$500 per year. I have, however, the same opinion in regard to this that I have in regard to the other positions, and the best interests of the service will be enhanced more by the employment of regular journeymen who know their business, have had years of experience, and who can cut and fit and make patterns than by the use of partly trained Indian boys.

Commr. 2.

These sentiments I have conveyed to Supt. Canfield.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav'y.,

Sup't.

21269

INDIAN OFFICE

1891.

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C O P Y.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

June 6th, 1891.

W. F. Canfield,
Sup't. Indian Industrial School,
Fort Totten, N. D.

My dear Sir:-

It would be quite practicable for us to send you a fairly capable Indian boy harness maker, and another as shoemaker; but, if your purpose is to establish an industrial department where you expect to teach your pupils these trades, I would suggest that by all means you secure the services of a competent jour, instead of depending upon Indian boys. While they are capable of repairing, and even manufacturing in a limited way, they are not sufficiently qualified to act as instructors. The young men named by Mr. Potter are all either returned to their agencies and at work there or have gone out from us into lines that are now promising to themselves than continued association with Indians. Mr. Potter in his letter, enclosed with yours, speaks of a brass band instructor. There is a young man at the Green Bay Agency (his address is Dennison Wheelock, Oneida, Wis.) who would be quite capable of training a band for you, and he could also act as an assistant teacher and is somewhat competent as a printer. My impression is that he is now receiving a salary of \$400 a year as teacher of a day school.

I understand quite a good deal of the difficulties you contend with in reference to your neighbors. It is outrageous that our efforts to aid these people should be so hindered by unscrupulous influences.

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt,

Cap t. & Sup't.