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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS,

1892

Rec'd FEB

31/257

Indian Training School, Carlisle, Pa

Capt R. H. Pratt, 10th Cav. Supl.

February 6, 1892

Regarding pay of
Indian pupils.

Dear Sir -

Letter to Director Feb 12/92

File

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Very respectfully,
Your obt. servt.,

[Handwritten signature]

Capt. 10th Cav., Supl.

My records are all carefully kept, and the expend-
this authority was given for continuing the payments.
against the payment, was thoroughly discussed at the time
clothing, educating them, etc., as offset and argument
should be made for their work.
you are not, as you say, acquiring a trade, and therefore
opposite before the other, because the Justice and staple
off from you. I would, as a matter of Justice, cut off the

would take better care of what they get.
issue to them without any return on their part as now; they
that it was by far the better course, - much better than to
and let the students work them out in some way. I should feel
possible to issue all clothing, books, etc., charge them up
as indicated in my letter of Feb. 18, 1890. If it were
I think are made on request papers which some are attached.

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INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

Feb. 6, 1892.

The Honorable,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to yours of Feb. 3rd, marked "Education, 43793" in reference to the pay of Indian pupils, I have the honor to respectfully enclose to you a copy of my letter to the Hon. Commissioner, dated Feb. 18, 1886, in reply to a letter from him upon this subject. This letter was written after a conference with the Commissioner and the Supt. of Schools, in which the pay of pupils was discussed. There is in the history of Carlisle from the beginning until office letter of April 20, 1886, quite a good deal in reference to payment of pupils that may not have been before you when you wrote the letter. We began the payment of pupils in the start, governed by the system then of paying apprentices at the Agencies \$5 per month. We made this payment, with the sanction of the Office, until the expiration of the fiscal year, June 30, 1883, at which time, through a misconception of the objects, action of Congress had been secured forbidding,

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Commr. 2,

in the Indian Appropriation Bill, payments to students. At the next session, with a better understanding of the purposes, Congress removed the prohibition, so that we began paying again with the fiscal year, July 1st, 1884. During this interval I carried my pupil labor with my charity fund, paying out something over \$1600.

It was, as you will see by the letter enclosed, at my suggestion that the amounts were reduced to 8c., 12c., and 24c. per day. The object has not been so much because it was felt necessary to reward the students for their labor as it was to teach them the uses of money, and to beget within them a desire to earn money, and, as explained in the letter enclosed, the payment of the money in this way is little or no loss to the Government, or addition to the expense of the school, for almost all of it is expended for clothing and such things as the Government would otherwise have to furnish. Neckties, collars, cuffs, shirts, shoes hats and clothing are the almost universal purposes for which the money is expended. It is, therefore, evident that with this purpose, of teaching the children the uses of money, in view, that it is right it should be made as universal and teach as many pupils in the school as possible.

I do not agree with the conclusions of your letter

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Commr. 3.

of the 3rd that the apprentices are the worthy and most proper ones to receive the pay, for they are acquiring a trade, and are being better paid by that for their labor than is the student who performs the work of janitor, stable boy, etc., and, to my mind, if one or the other were to be cut off from pay, I would, as a matter of justice, cut off the apprentice before the other, because the janitor and stable boy are not, as you say, acquiring a trade, and therefore should be paid for their work.

All this assertion that the Government was feeding, clothing, educating them, etc., as offset and argument against the payment, was thoroughly discussed at the time this authority was given for continuing the payments.

My records are all carefully kept, and the expenditures are made on request papers which name the articles, as indicated in my letter of Feb. 18, 1886. If it were possible to issue all clothing, books, etc., charge them up and let the students work them out in some way, I should feel that it was by far the better course, - much better than to issue to them without any return on their part as now; they would take better care of what they get.

Very respectfully, Your obt. servt.,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cavy., Supt.

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INDIAN OFFICE

Incls. No.

1892

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These wages would give about \$1.00 per month to the 80. str-
 dets, \$1.50 to the 12c., and \$3.00 to those allowed 24c.
 In connection with this matter, a regular sewing
 and banking system should be carried out, and as near as
 possible every cent expended by the students should be under
 the direction and approval of the school authorities. I

require students to state what they intend to buy and the
 amount they desire to pay before giving them money, then, in
 order to protect their interests, I require them to show the
 articles purchased.

This is some trouble, but it gives me the fullest
 opportunity to teach the lessons of economy and forethought
 that every youth must learn.

While, on paper, our system seems to require an
 output of about \$2500 per year it is not really an expense,
 because the purchases by the students are almost entirely of
 clothing and other articles and expenses that are a saving
 to the school.

Very respectfully,

Yours obt. servt.,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt,

Govt. 10th Cav'y.,

Supt.

A TRUE COPY.

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

(C O P Y)

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

Feb. 18, 1886.

To the Hon.,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 17th inst., in regard to pay of apprentices at Indian Training Schools, I have to say that I fully concur with the views expressed by the Supt. of Schools, which were that for the first two years the pay should be much less than for the third year. I would say that for regular apprentices work at trades the first three months work had better be probationary and without pay; after that a per diem of 8c. for the first year, 12c. for the second, and 24c. for the third year and after, would, in my judgment, cover the purposes for which the payments are made. I think the pay for farm boys should begin with the work and be at the rate of 12c. per day, except in harvest, when the best hands might receive 24c. per day. The other regular work, such as janitors, etc., whom school superintendents may think best to pay I would allow 8c. or 12c. per day in the discretion of the Superintendents, and let pay begin with the work. Working half days, as our system requires,

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these wages would give about \$1.00 per month to the 8c. students, \$1.50 to the 12c., and \$3.00 to those allowed 24c.

In connection with this matter, a regular saving and banking system should be carried out, and as near as possible every cent expended by the students should be under the direction and approval of the school authorities. I require students to state what they intend to buy and the amount they desire to pay before giving them money, then, in order to protect their interests, I require them to show the articles purchased.

This is some trouble, but it gives me the fullest opportunity to teach the lessons of economy and forethought that every youth must learn.

While, on paper, our system seems to require an output of about \$2500 per year it is not really an expense, because the purchases by the students are almost entirely of clothing and other articles and expenses that are a saving to the school.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,

(Signed) R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10th Cav'y.,

Supt.

A TRUE COPY.

R.H. Pratt
Capt. U.S. Army
Supt.