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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS,
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Indian Training Sch. Carlisle, Pa.

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

March 9th 1892

Rel. to allowance of
vacation for teachers
without loss of pay

File

Very respectfully,

Yours obed. servt.,

R. H. Pratt

Capt. John G. ...

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Indian Industrial School,
Carlisle, Pa.

Mar. 9, 1892.

The Honorable,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

It has been on my mind for several years back to say something to the Department in reference to the allowance of vacation, without loss of pay, for teachers. They, with the rest of our employes, are entitled under the regulations to one month out of each year. If they take more than that, they lose their pay. While I feel assured that teachers ought to have the full two months, it is not practicable, so far as I have been able to see, to make it apply in our system of schools because of the other employes; and yet the extra wear upon their nervous systems is such as to make it of very great importance that they take more time each year than the one month allowed.

A feature of this situation presents itself to me, and I feel like laying it before you with my recommendation that it be adopted. It is this, - that any Indian school teacher who will spend any portion of the two months of school vacation in attendance upon a summer school, and will

9236

Commr. 2,

bring to the school superintendent a certificate of such attendance, whether it be one, two, three or four weeks, and thus better fit herself for the performance of her school duties by keeping up with the new methods and by association with teachers and teacher instructors, increase her spirit and power of teaching, shall be entitled to have that portion of time counted as in the performance of legitimate school duty, and to receive pay therefor. In justification of this, I wish to say that in the State of Pennsylvania, there is, in every county, a week or more of County Convention, which all the teachers of the county are expected to attend. They adjourn their schools for the special purpose of attending this convention. It is held sometime in the winter season. At this convention they are under the eye of the county superintendent and under the instruction of teachers of methods whom he brings before them for that purpose. The State not only continues their pay during this period but makes them an extra allowance to cover their expenses of travel and hotel while in attendance at the convention.

Now, it would seem to me that any Indian school teacher who will go hundreds of miles, as some of my teachers do every year, to attend a summer school where she may be under the direct training of the best educators in the

880
Comm r. 3.

country, should be commended by the Government to the extent of having, at least, her pay go on and not have it count against her month's vacation, as my teachers have had to do in the past.

Your own utterances on the necessity of Indian teachers being the very best of teachers, in which I entirely agree, are additional warrant for this recommendation.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. servt.,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav'y.,

Sup't.