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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs,  
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1893

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Incl on Indus. School, Carlisle, Pa.

Capt. R. H. Pratt, 10th U. S. Cavy Supt.

In regard to students for  
The fiscal year 1894.

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U. S. Indian School,  
Carlisle, Pa.

June 6th 1893.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I desire to bring to your attention the subject of students for this school for the ensuing fiscal year. We have at present on our rolls 731, about 60 of these will be on the home-going list to leave us early in July which will bring our numbers down to about 670. If we can have suitable pupils that is, those who are not under 12, generally over 14 years of age, who are somewhat advanced, of good health and good character I should be glad to undertake 800 during the fiscal year 1894 on our appropriation. But unless we can have pupils who are in good health, of good character and suitable age I should prefer to keep the number down.

I have often notified the Office that I can easily keep out in the public schools of Pennsylvania without material cost to the Government as many as three to four hundred. But we have been greatly imposed upon in the quality of students sent. Physical examinations after their arrival here have proved that many should not been sent from their homes and



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experience shows that an undue proportion of the others were bad characters of the home schools: indeed such has been the quality that I would far rather undertake the wildest and most untutored youth. But this of course is not practicable under the law. The law if honestly and intelligently enforced is all right and for the best interests of the Government. But if the administration of it will be continued in the future as in the past we shall ultimately become nothing more than a hospital and reformatory.

In this connection it is my judgment that while the <sup>educational</sup> needs of the Indians most dependent upon the Government are so great we ought not to increase our number from either New York or Michigan, especially from New York. We get a good quality of students from Montana, Dakota, Idaho, the wildest tribes of the Indian Territory, New Mexico and Arizona.

I would prefer when parties of students are to come in to send my own school physician or a careful employe to make the selections and exert some restraining influence over the carelessness of the agency physicians.

I would press upon your attention that the close of the school year is near and that any action looking for transfers from the home schools should be hastened.

Dictated.

Very respectfully,

R.H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cavalry U.S.A. Supt.