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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs, 1893
Rec'd JUL 17

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Sas. Inst. School. Carlisle. Pa.

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R. H. Pratt, Capt. 10th Cav. U.S.A.

July 15, 93

Answering Lt. McAnaney's
letter to Hon. Commr. Sas
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U. S. Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

July 15th, 1893.

To the Honorable,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:--

The letter from Lt. McAnaney, Acting Indian Agent at the Fort Belknap Agency, dated June 24th, sent to me as "self-explanatory," under cover of your letter of the 13th inst, marked Education, 24,853, is herewith respectfully returned. I carefully note its contents, and as a result, do not find it necessary to change any of the statements in my letter of May 23rd, to which it claims to be an answer. It does seem best, however, that Lt. McAnaney's further statements should not go unchallenged.

The students arrived at Carlisle, April 13th, 1890, as stated. On the 11th of August, less than four months after, Winona, one of the women, was sent home on account of Consumption. She had no Pneumonia here. Moreover, she was a married woman, and her husband, Joshua Bird, who was sent here with her, was returned home at the same time. Both were undoubtedly much older than the descriptive statement of the Agent and the Agency Physician indicated. There was another married couple in the party whom I sent home on the 5th inst., Daniel S. Bear and wife, because of the wife's being in a consumption, both also double the age given for them in the descriptive statement. None of the Fort Belknap

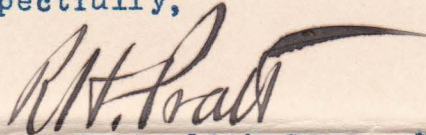
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students, returned to the Agency from this school, suffered from Pneumonia, here. Where Lt. McAnaney could have obtained his mis-information is inexplicable. Without entering into further details of the controversy, it is right that the comparative statistics he gives should be analyzed.

I invite your attention to the Indian Office reports for 1890, 1891, and 1892, the three years covered by Lt. McAnaney. The statistics for the Fort Belknap Agency for 1890 show a population of 1722. During the three years, 154 births are reported, giving a total of 1876 to be accounted for. During the period, 125 deaths are reported, but the report for 1892 shows that the population had decreased to 1577, giving a loss in the three years of 299, instead of 125 reported by the Agency physician, and this is probably much nearer the truth than the mortality statistics used by Lt. McAnaney. Going back eight years in the history of the Agency, the steady decrease in numbers, notwithstanding the mortality statistics of births and deaths, still further and more conclusively disproves the healthy home conditions assumed by Lt. McAnaney. The reports of the neighboring Agencies show the same gradual decadence. The facts are that we are dealing with a rotting condition, apparently little comprehended by Lt. McAnaney, and it is to be feared, by his medical advisor also, though some of Lt. McAnaney's predecessors, by their reports, seem to have been fully alive to it. From these conditions, all the children

Commr.----3.

suffer. These at Carlisle are not exempt because they come to this place. As Lt. McAnaney is relieved from his duties as Acting Agent, any further attempt to educate or controvert him in these matters may not be necessary.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. H. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Capt. 10th Cavy., U.S.A., Supt.

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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs.
Rec'd JUL 10

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Fort Belknap Agency

June 24th 1893

W. H. McAnany

First Lieutenant 8th Cavalry,
Acting Indian Agent.

Ref. to Capt. R. H. Pratt's
comments re.

Encl. Carlisle July 13/93

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INDIAN OFFICE,
Incls. No. 1

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United States Indian Service,

Fort Belknap, Agency,

June 24th, 1893.

To the

Hon. Commissioner

Indian Affairs

Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Office letter "E. 16733-1893, dated May 31st 1893, enclosing copy of some comments made by Capt. R. H. Pratt 10th Cavalry upon my letter of 21st ult.

My letter was intended to represent to your office the attitude of these Indians toward non-reservation schools and was not an expression of my opinion concerning any particular school.

Under these circumstances I fail to see the right of any one to refer to the statements in my letter as the strictures of the Acting Agent.

Since receipt of copy of Capt Pratt's letter I have taken some pains to inquire

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into the matter, with the following results:

The twenty-two (22) children sent from this Agency to Carlisle were carefully examined by the Agency physician, in the presence of Mr Campbell of the Carlisle school, before their departure, they, the 22, were found to be healthy children, a number of others being rejected. If, upon arrival at school, any were found "who should not have been sent," the records of this office fail to show that such information was ever received here.

Of the four (4) who "were sent home sick," one died eight (8) days after return, another eleven (11) weeks after return and a third is now slowly dying of consumption. The Medical records of this Agency show that the beginning of each of these cases was pneumonia at Carlisle. Four deaths out of twenty-two (22) young and healthy children, in three years and a little over "make a death rate of six per cent per annum, while the average annual death rate for the past

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three years has been, for the Indians on this reservation, two and seven tenths ($2\frac{7}{10}$) per cent.

In the case of Lucy Enter Lodge, Capt. Pratt's words were: "She, I think, is quite competent for the place." I consider this a strong endorsement.

Twenty five dollars per month, board and washing not included, is not, west of the Mississippi, considered an undue salary for a strong girl doing hard work.

I cannot concur in Capt. Pratt's view as to the evil of perpetuating the tribe, as I find nothing in my instructions directing me to aid in its extermination. I am ignorant as to what instructions are given to the Supt of Carlisle School

Very respectfully

A. M. Quaney
First Lieutenant 8th Cavalry,
Acting Indian Agent