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Indian Affairs, 1893
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Ind. Ind'l. School, Carlisle, Pa.

R. Pratt, Capt. 10th Cav., U.S.A. Inf'ty.

July 18 '93

Reply to office letter
making inquiry about
David McFarland

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To Sup't. Ft. Lapwai Sch. July 24/93

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U. S. Indian School,
Carlisle, Pa.

July 18th, 1893.

To the Honorable,

The Commr. of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:--

Replying to your letter of the 12th, marked Education, 24,919, enclosing letter written by Edward McComville, Supt. of the Fort Lapwai school, by request of Philip McFarland, asking that David McFarland, a pupil of this school, be allowed to return home to aid his father, who is very old, upon which you require report, I have to respectfully advise you that this case has been the subject of ^{previous} correspondence, both from the Agency and between Miss Fletcher and myself. I copy for your information portions of Miss Fletcher's letter.

I sent for David, and have talked the matter over quite fully and freely with him. He states voluntarily and without hesitation that his brother Philip is a non-progressive Indian, living much as the other Indians do, though, at one time, he belonged to the progressive party; that he is a lazy, unreliable, good-for-nothing man. He states also that his father is a non-progressive man, and does little else than fish and hunt. David says he came East to get an education, has been here only about eighteen months, that he came to stay five years and he feels that he ought to stay longer, that he does not want to go home, and

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does not think it necessary to go home, that his father is a widower and can be taken care of by Philip (~~Philip wants to~~), and that they are congenial in their non-progressive habits. He says his father is perfectly able to take care of himself in the way he does---fishing and hunting

I do not believe that Mr. McConnville would himself recommend David's return. David is in excellent health and wishes to become a good blacksmith, for which he is physically and otherwise exceptionally qualified.

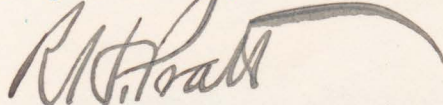
Miss Fletcher states as follows: "David McFarland writes that his brother Philip desires his return this summer. David says he has stock of his own which is running without care since John McFarland died, and that he feels as tho' he ought to help his brother farm and look after stock. On the other hand, David says he has greatly desired to learn a trade, he came in part for that purpose to Carlisle, he thinks a trade would give him a better outlook in the future, than to depend on farming. ----- I do not know David's capabilities. He is a good well meaning boy, I think, but whether he can learn a trade or not, I do not know. Nor do I know what trade would be most suited to his capacities. Farming in Idaho is considerable of a problem, unless a farm has water on it, or has a favorable locality. I question that David will ever be able to make a living from farming. Stock-raising requires capital and care to make it succeed. Some men do well,

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others fail. Free ranges and scrub cattle are of the past. David goes back to untoward circumstances, to poverty, and life without ideals or incentives. He will probably go back in a few years if not now, and you know best whether it will help him sufficiently to stay on. His brother Philip is not a very steady man, and David will have much to brace up against whenever he returns."

Mr. McConnville's letter is herewith respectfully returned.

Very respectfully,



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