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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs.  
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Indian Industrial School

Carlisle Barracks Pa

March 16. 1894

Capt R M Pratt

10th Cavry Supt

Regarding return

home of John G.

Grout and returning

his letters to

Gen. Commissioner

Yours

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In reply to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,  
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., March 16, 1894.

To the Honorable

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D .C.

Sir:-----

Replying to your letter of March 15th marked "Education 10,115", enclosing letter from John G. Ground, a pupil of this school now at Newtown, Pennsylvania, directing my recommendations, I have to respectfully recommend that John's affairs be left entirely in my hands. John and two other boys (Catholics) came to me with an elaborate proposition to organize a Catholic Society in the school. As I had previously refused Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians, desiring that there should be no Sectarian organizations, I also refused them. All boy students seem to have been satisfied to join in the Y.M.C.A. work, which has Catholic members, as well as others, and the girls in the King's Daughters Circle, both considered non-sectarian. I thought them ample for all purposes on the school grounds, though I have not objected to any students joining any Church organization in the church to which they belong in town. The three boys argued very strenuously about the matter, and I quite as positively refused, when they spoke

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Commissioner,--#2.

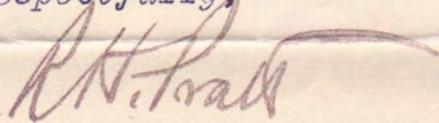
of their privileges at St. Ignatius, where it appeared that all of them had attended school before they came here, and proposed to return to St. Ignatius, and that they would go out and earn money to pay their transportation for that purpose. I accordingly provided places for each of them, with the understanding that they would go out and earn their own money. The leader of the three soon ran away from his place, although he had one of the best places on our list, and was getting a good salary, went to Trenton and hired himself to an Undertaker. He had been learning the Carpenter trade here at the school. Believing that experience would be his best teacher I let him remain there and he soon began to write and telegraph me for funds to return to the school. I paid no attention to these and he finally turned up at the school, and has seemingly been glad to remain at school and enjoy its privileges and such liberal church facilities as we give his creed. One of the other boys has worked steadily all winter and has accumulated money and I have no doubt will pay his own way back to Montana soon, and I think it best to let him go. Ground, who had the option, when he reached his place, of going to school or working continuously on a salary, chose to go to school. Now, after being out several months attending school he finds himself without money, hence his appeal. It will do him much more good to carry out the

Commissioner,--#3.

program which he himself arranged, but should any modifications seem best those can be best brought about by direct arrangement with me.

I know nothing of the payments to his Tribe he speaks of. His letter is herewith returned.

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 flourish at the end.

Capt. 10th Cavalry, Supt.

1 Enclosure.