

Indiana Industrial School, Carlisle, Pa.
980

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Capt. R. K. Pratt
10th Cav
Infant

January 6th 1894

In reference to
Tuberculosis among
School Herd.

Del
To Pratt, Jan 8/95

File

A

SPECIAL

Stunt

To Pratt 4/29

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In Reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., January 6th, 1895.

To the Honorable,
The Commr. of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:--

I respectfully submit to you the following information, and request immediate action.

Early in November one of our best cows was taken quite sick, and I sent the school physician to examine and report. He reported it a bad case of tuberculosis. I had the cow killed and the physician make a post mortem examination, which revealed the fact that she was thoroughly diseased with tuberculosis. I then discovered that which I had not known before---that both the State and the General Government were making examinations of herds with material called Tuberculin and the Doctor said that he could himself safely make the test of all the cattle in the herd. I sent for the material. In the meantime, the Honorable Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Morton, heard by some means of the diseased cow, and wrote me personally stating that if desired he would send an expert of his Department here and thoroughly examine the herd without expense to the school. I assented, the examination was made, and thirty-four animals were reported to be tuberculous. Learning then that there was a fund in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture for the

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examination of tuberculosis, and believing that I could make use of that fund to our relief, I submitted to him the proposition that he should make our herd a test herd in his Department, and kill and replace--as emergency might demand--at the expense of his Department, or that he take the diseased for test purposes and reimburse the school from funds appropriated by Congress for that special purpose. I awaited his action in the matter in order that I might have a substantial mode of relief from the dilemma to submit to you, believing from what I had learned that one or other of my propositions would be accepted. Instead of hearing directly from the Secretary or from the Department of Agriculture, there appears here a live stock agent of the Department with orders to make an estimate of the value of each of the diseased animals in the herd, and submit the matter to the Secretary for further action. I have received nothing from the Secretary, but the live stock agent is authorized by his Department to ship thirty of the cows to Washington for test purposes. It is perfectly settled in my mind that we should get rid of every one of the cows condemned, and that too as early as possible. Many of the cows are in fine condition, and give no outward evidence of the disease. I questioned the diagnosis of the live stock agent, and in order to establish it to a certainty, I selected one of the healthiest looking of the cows whom he said were diseased, and had her killed in the presence of my school physician and one of the physicians of the town. The agent gave a most sat-

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isfactory exhibition of the certainty of his test. There were tubercles--not numerous--but ample to warrant her killing.

I then had one of the cows diagnosed as worst diseased, killed and although she was apparently in good health, tubercles in great number were found in her system.

Since this matter has come up, I find that the State authorities are killing cattle in a number of localities and out of some of the best herds of the State, some belonging to State institutions. Mr. Singerly, proprietor of the Philadelphia Record, and a noted cattle breeder, has lost a considerable number. A man who furnishes milk in the village of Neville, near here, had twelve killed within a few weeks.

We have made an estimate of the value of the different cattle in the herd. There was a disagreement between the Agricultural Department agent, Dr. Curtis, and myself, of a little more than \$200.00. I called in two well-known dealers in such cattle, and one of them made an estimate on an average about midway between that of myself and the live stock agent, and the other made a difference of more than \$200.00 above my estimate. These figures have been submitted to Mr. Morton by the agent by the same mail which conveys this letter to you.

The live stock agent informs me that the rule is to pay two-thirds of the estimated value. That, I believe, is the State rule, but I have not been able to find out to a certainty. One thing seems definitely settled,

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and that is that we should not continue the diseased cattle in our herd under the circumstances, and if we can get reimbursement even for a limited amount, it is fortunate. The State, of course, would have nothing to do with our herd.

The matter of prices has not yet been fixed. The agent's letter to the Department of Agriculture fully explains. He shows the valuation of all parties estimating, and acknowledges that his figures are probably low.

As the agent is only authorized to take thirty of the cattle, I have reserved two of the largest and healthiest looking, which are only mildly affected and which will make good beef, and as it is the agent's opinion that we are eating beef daily fully as diseased, I see no harm in killing them and getting them out of the herd, and since they are affected only in the lungs and other parts usually thrown away, there is no reason why we should not eat them.

I respectfully recommend that the thirty cows be permitted to go to the Department of Agriculture, and that we be allowed to accept the valuation which may finally be placed upon them, to use in reestablishing our herd. It is expressly understood that if any of those taken are found without disease, the full valuation will be paid. The Department of Agriculture will also send an agent here with material to thoroughly disinfect the stable, and we shall then white-wash throughout, as the Department recommends, and thereafter by disinfecting and periodical white-washing en-

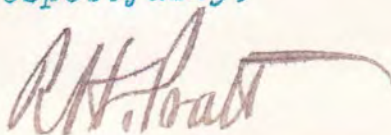
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deavor to protect the cattle remaining and such new ones as may come, from contracting the disease. I am indirectly informed that the Department of Agriculture will aid me by examination in protecting the purchases made to replace those destroyed.

From what I can see now, we shall realize a little more than one-half as much money from these cattle, as it will take to replace them with ^{sound} cattle of equal quality, but I will make the reestablishment of the herd the subject of another letter.

In order that there may be no delay, I send this letter to you under special delivery stamp, and request that I may have a prompt reply by telegraph, as the live stock agent is here waiting to take the cattle to their testing grounds at Washington.

Very respectfully,



Capt. 10th Cav., Supt.