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3979

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd JAN 26

1895

41/285

Indian Innu. School,
Carlisle, Pa. Jan. 24, 1895.

Pratt, Capt. P. A., 10th Cav,
U. S. A.,
Superintendent.

Gives information
about outing
System.

Memo to Sup J. J. 28/95

E. Hale

Lee

Very truly yours,

In reply to:

3979

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

Carlisle, Jan 24th, 1895:

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your circular dated December 21st, in regard to outing? I have to respectfully advise you that during the more than fifteen years history of this School, we have thus placed out in families for longer or shorter periods, 2657 boys and 1467 girls and that for several years past, the number out each year, has averaged about 600.

My letter of 19th December, and my annual reports to your Department, give accounts of this scheme as carried out here. The total earnings of the boys and girls so placed out during the whole period have not fallen much below \$160,000.00. The average of failures for several years past have fallen below five per cent, and experience shows them to be due pretty nearly as often to the patrons as to students. We have found it necessary to exercise the greatest care in selecting places, but with all the care aided by long experience, we have been unable to avoid some mistakes. From our long experience, I can recommend the system as outlined in

In reply to:

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

your circular referred to, to be the very best scheme yet adopted in Indian management, to bring about friendly relations between the races, and to assimilate the interests of the two races along the only lines practicable for such assimilation, which is and must be through self-help, so that neither race may be a burden on the other.

Very truly yours,

R.H. Pratt
Capt. 10th Cavry
Sup't.

Carlisle, Pa.
Dec. 19/94

Capt. R. H. Pratt, Supt.

Rel. abandoning contract
schls. and putting pupils
in public schls. and
extension of Outing System.

COPY LETTER.

Gen. Commr. of Indian Affairs, 1894.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,
Office of Superintendent.
750 children and an additional appropriation of \$52,300.00 to
carry 750 more children through the outing system.

The accommodations here Carlisle, Pa., December 19th 1894.

To the honorable, member can be increased twenty per cent without
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to be some changes and
Washington, D. C. I but not material ones and nothing
Sir:— The principal expense of Indian
in view of the contemplated abolition of Indian
contract schools and the extra pressure upon the Government to
care for the students thus thrown out of school privileges, I
respectfully invite attention to the exceptional facilities
within the control of this school for placing young Indians in
the public school system of the country. Our present appropriation of \$105,000.00 enables us to just
carry from 750 to 800 pupils, using the "outing system," that
is, placing students in country homes, largely during the summer
and vacation months, when they labor and earn wages, and to a
limited extent during the winter months, when they work out of
school hours for their keep and attend public and other schools
I have repeatedly represented to the Department that the number
we so place out could be ^{almost} largely increased. There was a period
of more than ten years during which the Indian appropriation
bill carried a special sum appropriated by Congress for this
purpose but which was never materially made use of. I now propose that the number of pupils at this school be
increased to 1500 and that the appropriation for the ensuing
year be increased to \$157,500.00. This would be our present
appropriation of \$105,000.00 on which I can comfortably carry

750 children and an additional appropriation of \$52,500.00 to carry 750 more children through the outing system, as bad as

The accommodations here are filled with 600 present but in an emergency the number can be increased twenty per cent without material disadvantage. There will need to be some changes and additions here at the school but not material ones and nothing that will not be covered by the sum I have named. The principle expense of the addition will be transportation from the west but that I include in this estimate. The following year the number of children could be increased to 1000 or more without increasing the sum appropriated because the number to be transported would be largely decreased. Additional employees will be needed, more especially to examine into places offered and visit from time to time the students placed out, to adjust differences, and there will be some expense on account of contact failures, clothing and other needed help at the start.

Our experience has been that outing relations once established have generally held. People who have our boys and girls usually desire to continue using them, and the more experience patrons and pupils have the greater is the advantage to both. The farmers are, ^{almost} without exception, honest in their appreciation and payment of the students and in general the best feeling has prevailed all around. For twelve years we have not had to seek places for students, but on the contrary

it has been a material burden on our correspondence to deny those who asked and whom we had to deny because we had not the students to give. The principle of self-help, which is most vital in all this Indian work, is the strongest element in favor

of this outing system. It also has the advantage of showing to both the white man and the Indian that neither is as bad as the other thought. Our students are not rejected anywhere in the public schools. Both the state and neighborhood officials are in sympathy with the movement. This plan brings the Indian youth directly in contact with good, wholesome, civilized life and they absorb it rapidly, and it absorbs them and they become a part of it. There is no better scheme to enable Indian youth to obtain a useable knowledge of the English language.

It is perhaps needless for me to add that the public schools of Pennsylvania and the adjoining states, where I would place these pupils, are vastly superior to the frontier schools in which Indian youth are placed under the present Departmental contract arrangement, and further that the advantages of contact in the home life of the children so placed are incomparably better than in the frontier schools.

In this connection I respectfully invite your attention to that part of the report of a year ago of Inspector Paisor recommending an increase in our outing system.

Very respectfully,

(Dictated) (Signed)

E. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10th Cav'y., U.S.A.

Supt.