

43839

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd NOV 18

1896

✓ 29737-96	31722-96 ✓
✓ 31762-00	32507-96 ✓
32082-"	33926-"
	34278-"

Int. Department.

Nov. 16, 1896,

Reply to letter of Sept.
10, 1896, recommending
that Capt. R. H. Pratt be
suspended from duty as
Supt. of Carlisle School, etc.
for reasons stated

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON,

November 16, 1896.

43839
The Commissioner
of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

I am in receipt of a communication from your office of date September 10, and signed Thomas P. Smith, Acting Commissioner, enclosing correspondence between your office and Captain R. H. Pratt, the Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School at Carlisle, Pa., which communication recommends "that Captain R. H. Pratt be suspended from all the duties of superintendent of the Carlisle school, and that the Honorable Secretary of War be requested to recall his detail for duty in the Indian school service. "

The charge against Capt. Pratt is "gross insubordination!"

After a thorough examination of the correspondence, I directed Capt. Pratt to come to Washington, and on the 14th instant, had a full talk with him concerning the charge made and the circumstances which led to his communications to you and his letter of October 6, 1896, to the Chief Clerk of this Department in reply to an inquiry made by said Chief Clerk by my direction.

Enclosed, you will find a statement from Capt. Pratt addressed to me, giving a complete account of his reasons for dispensing with the services of Miss Silcott and Miss Mosher. You

will observe therefrom that Capt . Pratt was under the impression that the verbal reasons given to the Superintendent of Indian schools, Dr. W. N. Hailman, for asking that the above named teachers be transferred, were sufficient. That impression is substantiated by a letter of July 17, 1896 which Capt. Pratt directed to Superintendent Hailman at St. Paul, Minn., copy of which is enclosed. Dr. Hailman admits having had conversation with Capt. Pratt on this subject, but had forgotten the tenor thereof when he wrote to Capt. Pratt asking that the reasons be repeated. Not only are those reasons set forth in the enclosed communication from Capt . Pratt, but additional and forceful ones are given therein.

It can not be denied that Capt. Pratt was guilty of discourtesy in not repeating those reasons when requested to do so by the Superintendent of Indian Schools and the Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in August and September last. I do not consider however, that the offense committed is sufficient to justify a compliance with the recommendation that Capt. Pratt be relieved from further service as Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian School. Both in conversation and by written communication, I have reminded Capt. Pratt of his relations to your office and to the Superintendent of Indian Schools, and have impressed upon him the necessity of complying with the requirements of the service in giving reasons for refusing to renominate teachers hereafter, and believe there will be no like trouble in the future.

The papers are returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

David Francis
Secretary.

(11 inclosures.)

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RECEIVED
 NOV 18 '96

INDIAN OFFICE, 1896
 43839 Incl. No. /

Refutation of Charges.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, App't Div.
 RECEIVED
 NOV 18 '96

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[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Washington D.C.

Nov. 14 1896

To the Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior,
Sir:

Complying with your instructions to make a statement to you covering my reasons for expecting approval of my action in my "Reports of Changes of Employees" so far as Miss M. Sileott is concerned and why I do not want her as teacher at the Carlisle School, I have to respectfully inform you that in April last I verbally advised Dr W. N. Kailman Supt. of Ind^a Schools that it was my desire to have for the ensuing year two more of my graduates, Misses Nellie Robertson and Mary Bailey, as teachers. Dr. Kailman asked what teachers I would dispense with to make room for them, and I replied "You think a great deal of Misses Sileott

and Moshier and I will return them to you." So Hailman then indicated he would take care of them.

As nothing had been done about it on the 17th of July I wrote Dr Hailman the letter (copy inclosed) and this I thought ended the matter, and for reasons given in my letter to Judge Womack dated Oct. 6th and fuller explained ^{verbally} to you today I felt myself justified in taking the course I did.

My real reasons for not wanting Miss Silcott are that at Carlisle she proved to be a mischief maker and also inefficient as a teacher through weak discipline and want of energy.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

R. H. Pratt

Capt. 10th Cav'y

Sup't.

(1.) Miss Mosher +
Miss Silcott

43839

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No.

2

1896

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App't Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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In reply to:

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

COPY.

Carlisle, Pa., July 17th, 1896.

Dr. W. N. Hailman, Supt. Indian Schools,
% Indian School Convention,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Sir:-

Referring to my verbal information to you last Spring to that effect, I have now to respectfully advise you that I shall not re-nominate either Miss M. L. Silcott or Miss Maud Mosher for positions at this School this year. I will look out for any salary due them here on account of leave.

I send this information to you at St. Paul thinking it may serve in changes you may be now arranging.

Very respectfully,

(signed) R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10th Cavalry, U.S.A.,

(Dictated)

Supt.

N

M

(Official copy of this letter forwarded to Miss Mosher and Miss Silcott.)

29737

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd AUG 4

1896

46/104

M. L. Silcott,

City, Aug. 3, 1896.

Wants reappointment
to a position in the In-
dian Service.

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. App't Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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Sent Recy Dept. 10/96

File ✓

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43839

INDIAN OFFICE,
Incl. No. 3

1896

60

576 A. St. S. E. Wash.

Aug 3. 96.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Dear Sir.

In view of the fact that Capt R. H. Pratt did not re-nominate me for a position in his school this year.

I respectfully ask that I be appointed to a position by Sep 1st as my health is fully recovered and I am now able to resume my duties.

I further ask your kind consideration that my salary be not less than last year, if possible to grant me a promotion. I am sure you shall have no cause for regret.

Trusting this may meet your approval.

I am very respectfully.

M. L. Silcott.



9691

Incl. No. 4

68837

1914 POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is agreed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any unrepeatd message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any repeatd message, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case of delay arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or cipher messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Copy-ness in the transmission of message to any point on the lines of the Company can be insured by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one cent for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent for any greater distance.

No responsibility is attaching to messages placed in this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices, and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the published free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages of whatever amount or penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an unrepeatd message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating message back to the sending station for comparison.

No employee of this company is authorized to vary the foregoing:

JOHN O. STEVENS,
Secretary.

MILBEAR B. CRANDLER,
President and General Manager.

31

File
Capt
renominated
sex
with

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
App't Div.
NOV 18 '96

FILE SPECIAL

80

8

THE POSTAL COMPANY'S SYSTEM REACHES ALL IMPORTANT PORTS
AND via COMMERCIAL CABLES,

... AND BRITISH AMERICA,



TELEGRAM

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers messages subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

JOHN O. STEVENS, Secretary.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	CHECK
28p	Fy Cm	36 p/h	Y.R. 15 6p
Dated	Carlisle pa 30		
To	M. L. Silcott		

Received at

1427 F ST. N. W., WASHN. D. C.
(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

July 30 1896

No 817 M. St. Washn D. C.

You had signed regular roll to cover leave and were renominated to arrange that only your service here to terminate with your leave.

Bratt,
Capt.

32807

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
RECD AUG 28

1896

46/114

Capt. Pratt,
Carlisle Sch.,
Aug 27, 1896.

Letters - Reels
to Main Washers
& Silents,

Reel Pratt of 28/96
in Reel of 10/96

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App't Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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INDIAN OFFICE, Incl. No. 7	1896
43839	

SPECIAL

File

9

32807

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

5/10/18

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
215 p	sto	6	59 p GR

RECEIVED at Corcoran Bldg., S. E. Cor. 15th & F Sts., Washington, D. C. Aug 27 189

Dated Carlisle Pa 27

TO Smith, Acting Commr Indian Affairs
Washn DC

Your message today your attention
 is respectfully invited to the
 fact that I have not
 suggested the summary putting out
 of the Indian service of
 Misses Moshier and Dilcott as
 your letter of twenty second
 implies. I did. I only said we have no use
 for them here. Pratt Capt & Supt

33926

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd SEP 8

1896

46/41

M. L. Scott
Carlisle Pa

Sept. 7/96

Reported for duty.
Capt. refused to
place me on duty.
Will be in Washig
to day

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App' Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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Sent Regy **SPECIAL**
Sept. 10/96

File ✓

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1896

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No. J

43839

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
174	B	J	25 pd. goal

RECEIVED at Corcoran Bldg., S. E. Cor. 15th & F Sts., Washington, D. C. Sept 7 1896

Dated Carlisle Pa

To Asst Comr Indian Office Wash DC

Have reported for duty Capt

refused to place me on

duty Will be in Wash DC

today

M L Silcott

34298

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd SEP 8

1896

43839

INDIAN OFFICE,
Incl. No. 9

1896

46/149

Miss. M. L. Silcott.

City, Sept. 8, 1896.

Complains that Capt.
R. H. Pratt, refuses to
place her on duty at
Carlisle School.

2 inc -

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App't Div	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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Sent Copy Sept. 10/96

File

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Refer in reply to the following:

34293

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Washington, D. C., Sep 8, 1896

Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Sir.

According to your order I reported to Capt. Pratt for duty on 5th instant. On addressing me, he asked me "What I wanted there"? I told him I was ordered there to report for duty. He stated that he had no use for me and would not place me on duty. I asked if my position in school was filled? He said it was, also my room in the Teacher's Quarters was filled. I told him the Dept demanded of me a reason for not being re-nominated. He stated he did not have to give me a reason.

Refer in reply to the following:

86278
37298

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Washington, D. C., _____, 189

that the Dep't knew why he did not re-nominate me. He further claimed he had sufficiently informed me of the fact last Spring. When he sent me a copy of the letter ^{sent Mr. Haisman} July 20th

He at no time intimated to me I was not to return to the school.

Before leaving Carlisle on Monday the 7 instant, I asked Capt Pratt "Would he send a telegram to the Department using the same words he used to me on Saturday?" He said he would, that it was due me. I left for the car, and while

Refer in reply to the following:

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Washington, D. C., _____, 189_____

37298

waiting he sent me a message saying he had reconsidered the matter and would not write the same I submit with this.

I then returned to the office and asked him for a statement of what he had said. He gave me what you find enclosed. I then asked for paper to write his words. "He would not place me on duty, nor pay me as I had done nothing to deserve pay". On presenting him what I had written to sign. He refused, saying he had written in my letter the same further remarking. Why should I

Refer in reply to the following:

Department of the Interior,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Washington, D. C., _____, 189

be so particular about what he had said. I had stopped every thing at the school.

I told him I would leave. "Yes for I will not use you, the sooner the better". I then left for home.

His manner was very ungentle manly to say the least. On asking him permission to visit one of the ladies on the grounds? He granted the request after long silence, by adding "Yes as it is raining".

Respectfully
M. L. Silcott.

34298

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No. /

1896

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App't Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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43839

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No. 10

1896

In reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., September 7th 1896.

Miss M. L. Silcott:-

At your request I hereby confirm in writing my statement made to you when you reported to me on Saturday the 5th instant, that I have no place for you at Carlisle, and that of this fact the Department was fully informed.

Respectfully,

(Dictated)
N.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, reading "R. H. Foadt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Captain 10th Cavalry, U. S. A.,
Superintendent.

34298

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No.

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1896

43839

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No.

11

1896

	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR App't Div.	RECEIVED NOV 18 '96
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In reply to:

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

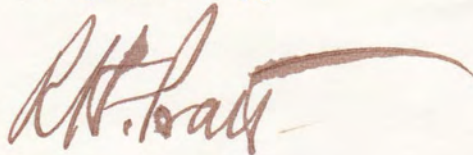
Carlisle, Pa., September 7th 1896.

Miss Silcott:-

Upon further consideration it seems to me best not to telegraph.
The Assistant Commissioner fully understood my position when sending
you here.

Respectfully,

(Dictated)
N.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R. H. Pratt", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Captain 10th Cavalry, U. S. A.,

Superintendent.

31722

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec'd AUG 19

1896

46/96

Capt

P. H. Pratt
Carlisle
Pa.

Aug 11/96

Makes statement
rel. to Miss Sit-
coll & Miss Moser

Transf. to Education 8/19/96

sent Recy file 10/96 file

DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INTERIOR
App't Div.
RECEIVED
NOV 18 '96

Sept

Special

Q

43839

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No.

12

1896

31722

Reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., August 18th 1896.

Dr. W. N. Hailman, Supt. Indian Schools,
Indian Office,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Replying to yours of the 15th marked #30836 in reference to Miss Silcott and Miss Mosher, I do not care to make any further statements than I have already made to you verbally here at the School and in Washington in regard to my reasons for declining to have Miss Silcott and Miss Mosher here the ensuing year. They are not wanted at Carlisle.

One statement in your letter in regard to Miss Silcott needs correction. I did not "induce" Miss Silcott to come to Carlisle "at great sacrifice to herself." Miss Silcott engineered her own transfer here through a Miss Porter, who stopped at the School on her way east from Crow Creek. Miss Porter advised me that Miss Silcott wanted to leave Crow Creek and would be glad to accept a transfer to Carlisle even at a reduced salary. Mr. Standing, who had been at Crow Creek and seen Miss Silcott, reported favorably upon her work. I thereupon authorized Miss Porter to say to Miss Silcott that I had a vacancy at the reduced salary which she could

have. This she accepted and I asked her transfer.

I made my nominations for the current year after my letter to you of July 17th was written and then realized that I could not well pay a regular employe on the irregular roll and as you would probably want to transfer and promote the two teachers named, it would be best for me to nominate them so that I could pay them on the regular roll for their "leaves with pay" and they would be in a proper position for you to transfer.

Miss Mosher makes the point that she has attended summer school and is entitled to pay during that time under the Departmental ruling. This will fall upon Carlisle and I withheld closing relations with her in part on that account and with both until your return.

Very respectfully,

(Dictated)
N.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R.H. Pratt", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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