

45847

OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec'd DEC 7

1896

47/59

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Dec. 4.....1896.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Regarding Beard  
and White Eyes,  
run away pupils, from  
Pine Ridge. Now at  
School ✓

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

45847

In reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., December 4th 1896.

To the Honorable,

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

Sir:-

Referring to your telegram of yesterday directing that I "send to Pittsburg for Beard and White Eyes, etc.," and your letter of the same date with enclosures from Mr. Doe, Assistant Secretary of War, and Mr. J. O. Brown, Director of Public Safety of Pittsburg, I have to respectfully advise you that Beard and White Eyes both returned to the School on Sunday morning last, November 29th, of their own accord and without cost to us.

The circumstances of their cases had better be known to you in view of your telegram and the strictures of Mr. Brown:

Beard and White Eyes both came here September 1st 1895 from Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota, and both through their entire experience here have shown that they were the very worst of characters. They were probably sent here on that account. Both are confirmed petty thieves and are addicted to the use of liquor, Beard especially so. I have endeavored to bring them into shape but both have needed severer lessons than the recent orders of your Department would permit. Both had run away from the School before, Beard three times and White Eyes twice, and were brought back each time at our expense. This last time they ran away it seemed to me best to let

45847

Commr. of Indian Affairs, page 2.

them have a full measure of experience in that line. They were arrested twice before reaching Pittsburg and in each case I asked the authorities to turn them loose. The message to the Chief of Police of Pittsburg was sent by my Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Standing, in my name, he knowing my wishes.

With all due respect to the opinions of the Director of Public Safety of Pittsburg, I believed, and still believe, that if work houses and reformatories are good correctives for the other population of the country, they would be for the Indians as well, and it was the application of these forces that seemed to me, and still seems to me, best for such characters as these two. These are young men of responsible years, and knowing the conditions at their Agency, notwithstanding the imposition upon us in their being transferred to Carlisle, I felt it was not best to return them until every measure for reformation within my power had been exhausted, and I count the surrounding influences and the organization of society of all sorts one of my greatest assistants. As the young men were sufficiently mature to know what they were about and took matters into their own hands, it seemed to me best to let them, if possible, get home entirely on the lines they started out on, and if perchance en route they got into a reformatory or jail, it would be at least not less than they deserved and far more humane in results, <sup>both</sup> for their good and for the influence it would have upon those who knew them and came in contact with them, than to be as they have been in the school or at the Agency.

As Mr. Brown has seen fit to make reflections upon my course in his letter to the Honorable Secretary of War, I feel it but right that both the Honorable Secretary and Mr. Brown should understand

Commr. of Indian Affairs, page 2.

the matter from my stand point, and I take the liberty of sending to both the Honorable Secretary and Mr. Brown a copy of this letter direct.

Very respectfully,

(Dictated)  
N.



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