

6622

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs

Rec'd FEB 15

1897

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Int. Department.

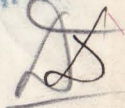
Feb. 15. 1897.

Enc. copies of correspondence rel. to certain actions of Capt.

R. H. Pratt and certain article published by him in the Jan'y. issue of "The Red Man," and calls for a report rel. to same.

7 in
To Secy. Int. Dept 16/97

SPECIAL



with a report from your Bureau as to whether these charges
laws and regulations.
of the Superintendent of Indian Schools of the Civil Service
alleges an improper connection and enforcement on the part
Captain Pratt, in the January issue of "The Red Man,"
certain actions and statements by said Captain Pratt.
the Superintendent of Indian Schools and Agents, concerning
Captain R. H. Pratt and myself, and also between yourself,

Very respectfully,

Secretary.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON,

February 15, 1897.

The Commissioner of
Indian Affairs.

Sir:

I enclose herewith copies of correspondence between Captain R. H. Pratt and myself, and also between yourself, the Superintendent of Indian Schools and myself, concerning certain actions and statements by said Captain Pratt.

Captain Pratt, in the January issue of "The Red Man," alleges an improper construction and enforcement on the part of the Superintendent of Indian Schools of the Civil Service laws and regulations. I desire to be promptly furnished with a report from your bureau as to whether these charges are well founded.

Very respectfully,

D. C. Francis
Secretary.

Secretary.

David R. Francis,

Very respectfully,

connected, I am,
between yourself and the officers of the Bureau with which you are
connected there will be no further lack of harmony pe-
to superior officers.

Experience like yourself should be reminded of the duty and respect due
therewith. It is not necessary that an army officer of long expe-
rience be dismissed of teachers, may not intelligently in accordance
so that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in the selection, trans-
fer or dismissal of teachers, may not be so negligent as I did verbally,
to the requirements of the Civil Service Rules, as I did verbally.

I take this occasion in writing to call your attention
which you have been assigned for seventeen years.

not sufficient to justify your being relieved from the detail to
to Renominste Miss Gilcott and Miss Mosher, I thought the offense
sister you blameless, for failing to give your reasons for refusing
tion. I have assured the Commissioner that while I did not con-
Indian School Service, and have given my reasons for such declin-
Honorable Secretary of War to recall your detail for duty in the
ing to comply with the recommendation of his Office to request the
I have also addressed a communication to the Commissioner, declin-
ing, and have forwarded same to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
as teachers for the year 1896-7 in the Indian School at Carlisle,
sons for your failure to renominate Miss Gilcott and Miss Mosher.

I am in receipt of yours of the 14th instant, giving res-

INDIAN OFFICE. 1897
No. 6622

SIR:

Carlisle, Penns.
Subj. U. S. Indian Schools,

Capt. R. H. Pratt,

November 16, 1896.

WASHINGTON,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
WASHINGTON,

November 16, 1896.

Capt. R. H. Pratt,

Supt. U. S. Indian Schools,
Carlisle, Penna.

Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of the 14th instant, giving reasons for your failure to renominate Miss Silcott and Miss Mosher as teachers for the year 1896-7 in the Indian School at Carlisle, Pa., and have forwarded same to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I have also addressed a communication to the Commissioner declining to comply with the recommendation of his Office to request the Honorable Secretary of War to recall your detail for duty in the Indian School Service, and have given my reasons for such declination. I have assured the Commissioner that while I did not consider you blameless, for failing to give your reasons for refusing to renominate Miss Silcott and Miss Mosher, I thought the offense not sufficient to justify your being relieved from the detail to which you have been assigned for seventeen years.

I take this occasion in writing to call your attention to the requirements of the Civil Service rules, as I did verbally, so that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in the selection, transfer or dismissal of teachers, may act intelligently in accordance therewith. It is not necessary that an army officer of long experience like yourself should be reminded of the duty and respect due to superior officers.

Trusting there will be no further lack of harmony between yourself and the officers of the Bureau with which you are connected, I am,

Very respectfully,

David R. Francis,

Secretary.

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1896

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Secretaria.

David R. Francis,

Very respectfully,

The papers are returned herewith.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

WASHINGTON,

November 16, 1896.

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, 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 service 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 the 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 dis-

courtesy 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 R. Francis,
Secretary.

ESSS

INDIAN OFFICE
No. 2

1897

Secretary.

D. R. Francis,

Very respectfully,

and, if so, what is your explanation thereof.

that you are responsible for the aforesaid expressions is correct,

I write for the purpose of asking whether my supposition

respect to a superior officer.

Indian Schools, in such a manner as is not consistent with the re-
servation; it also criticises Dr. W. M. Hallman, Superintendent of
and the observance and enforcement thereof by the present adminis-
tration; it also criticises Dr. W. M. Hallman, Superintendent of
mentioned publication and strenuously attacks the Civil Service Law
you are no doubt responsible. The January issue of the above-
mentioned publication and Superintendent, and for the expressions in which
you are Acting Superintendent, at Carlisle, Penna., of which school
the Indian Industrial School, a newspaper which appears to be printed at
issue of "The Red Man," a newspaper which appears to be printed at
My attention has recently been officially called to an

reminded of such duty.

expressed the desire that you give no further occasion to be again
Schools, and, in a letter written you subsequently very decidedly
superior officer, Dr. W. M. Hallman, Superintendent of Indian
attention to the necessity of your showing proper respect to your
In a conference had with you some weeks ago, I called

Sir:

Carlisle Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.

Acting Superintendent,

Capt. R. H. Pratt,

January 30, 1891.

WASHINGTON,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

INDIAN OFFICE

Incl. No. 3

6622

1891

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
WASHINGTON,
January 30, 1897.

Capt. R. H. Pratt,
Acting Superintendent,
Carlisle Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.

Sir:

In a conference had with you some weeks ago, I called attention to the necessity of your showing proper respect to your superior officer, Dr. W. N. Hailman, Superintendent of Indian Schools, and, in a letter written you subsequently very decidedly expressed the desire that you give no further occasion to be again reminded of such duty.

My attention has recently been officially called to an issue of "The Red Man," a newspaper which appears to be printed at the Indian Industrial School, at Carlisle, Penna., of which school you are Acting Superintendent, and for the expressions in which you are no doubt responsible. The January issue of the above-mentioned publication strenuously attacks the Civil Service laws and the observance and enforcement thereof by the present administration; it also criticises Dr. W. N. Hailman, Superintendent of Indian Schools, in such a manner as is not consistent with due respect to a superior officer.

I write for the purpose of asking whether my supposition that you are responsible for the aforesaid expressions is correct, and, if so, what is your explanation thereof.

Very respectfully,

D. R. Francis,

Secretary.

INDIAN OFFICE.

1897

Incl. No. 4

6622

Sup't. Indian Schools.

W. N. Hallman,

Respectfully,

and ask the favor of an early interview with the Honorable Secre-

Copy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Office of Superintendent of Indian Schools,

Washington, D. C., February 6, 1897.

The Honorable
Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

With the permission of the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, I have the honor to submit to you in a direct communication for your consideration the following, with reference to the late attack of Captain Pratt upon the policy of the Government in its administration of the Indian School Service and of the Civil Service, as well as more particularly upon my official and personal integrity as Superintendent of Indian Schools.

It is needless for me to recapitulate the particulars of Captain Pratt's offensive misstatements and insinuations, as this has already been done in previous communications submitted to you by the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs. On the other hand, I beg leave to say that the case demands prompt and early action in the interest of good government and simple justice.

Captain Pratt has assailed the integrity of every member of the Civil Service Commission, past and present, by insinuating that they necessarily abuse the trust placed in their keeping in the interest of partisan considerations.

He has assailed every employe in the School Service, brought into the work by Civil Service methods, by declaring, "that Civil Service finds for the schools very few teachers and employes of proved ability," and that "it is rather from the ranks of those who may make a good paper showing, but who from some infirmity of disposition or other disability are rejected by the business, school and industrial life of the country, that its candidates come."

He has directly and in false or misleading statements and unwarranted insinuations assailed the official and personal honor of the Superintendent of Indian Schools, an official who has labored faithfully in his advisory character to carry out the intentions of the Department of the Interior in the administration of the

Indian schools.

He has indirectly assailed the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, without whose approval the recommendations of the Superintendent of Indian Schools are void, and who in all the interests under the supervision of the Superintendent is competent to act without such recommendations.

He has done these things in an article edited by himself and printed in a periodical published under his direction at Government expense.

He has distributed, or caused to be distributed, marked copies of the "Red Man" containing this article, to School superintendents, agents and presumably to others in the School Service; thus, purposely inciting them to join him in his mutinous conduct.

He has distributed, or caused to be distributed, similar marked copies to influential members of the profession in which the Superintendent of Indian Schools has heretofore borne a high character, with a view of discrediting him in their esteem.

It has been said that Captain Pratt's previous good work and efficiency in the Service renders decisive measures undesirable but the power and influence which he may have thus gained only renders his responsibility the greater, his offence the more serious, and the necessity and duty of prompt and effective action on the part of the Government the more urgent.

It has been claimed that, because of the impending change in the administration, the action of the present administration might be ascribed to partisanship, and the incoming administration might reverse the action of the present administration, and thus render it nugatory. This, however, does not diminish the responsibility of the present administration, which would suffer more from a just charge of laxness in the performance of a plain duty than from an unjust charge of partisanship. Moreover, Captain Pratt, as a military man, presumably has no party affiliations, has in his article reviled equally both the leading parties, and has raised the standard of insurrection, not against a party but against the Government, pure and simple.

In the name, therefore, of the best interests of the Government in general, and of the Indian Service in particular, as well as in the name of simple justice to a trusty Government official who has been falsely assailed in his official and personal character, I would respectfully urge prompt and decisive action,

and ask the favor of an early interview with the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, in whose hands the matter now rests.

Respectfully,

W. N. Hailman,

Supt. Indian Schools.

8855

INDIAN OFFICE

FILE NO.

1897

Capt. John Cav. V., Subt.

R. H. Pratt,

Your obedient servant,

With great respect,

Your letter will probably be deemed by you unnecessary. You a full report, and further explanation from me in answer to said reference to that article, and will, therefore, be able to make Office has been here, verbally claiming by your direction with special receipt of your letter, Special Agent Dickson of the Indian fully advise you that the article was written by me, and as, since the same is correct, and for an explanation thereof, I have to respect-fully position, that I am responsible for the expressions in that article and article therein on Civil Service, and asking me whether you subscribe to an issue of the "Red Man," a paper printed in this school, and between the Indian Office and myself, and asking inquiry in regard to a conference I had with you some weeks ago, covering a difference.

Replying to your letter of January 30th in reference to

Sir:

Washington, D. C.

Secretary of the Interior,

D. R. Francis,

Carlisle, Pa., February 3, 1897.

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

INDIAN OFFICE,

Incl. No. 5

1897

6622

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

Carlisle, Pa., February 3, 1897.

Hon. D. R. Francis,

Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of January 30th in reference to a conference I had with you some weeks ago, covering a difference between the Indian Office and myself, and making inquiry in regard to an issue of the "Red Man", a paper printed in this school, and an article therein on Civil Service, and asking me whether your supposition, that I am responsible for the expressions in that article, is correct, and for an explanation thereof, I have to respectfully advise you that the article was written by me, and as, since the receipt of your letter, Special Agent Dickson of the Indian Office has been here, verbally claiming by your direction with special reference to that article, and will, therefore, be able to make you a full report, any further explanation from me in answer to your letter will probably be deemed by you unnecessary.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

RECEIVED
INDIAN OFFICE
FEB 7 1897

INDIAN OFFICE

1897

6622

Incl. No. 6

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FOLLOWING TERMS :**

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 following message and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any UNREPEATED 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 REPEATED message, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure 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.

Correctness in the transmission of a message to any point on the lines of this 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 per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles and two per cent. for any greater distance. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

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21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA.

CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

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Time Filled.

Check.

SEND the following message,
subject to the terms on back hereof,
which are hereby agreed to.

Feb. 5 1897

copy to Capt. R. H. Pratt

Carlisle, Penna.

Your letter of February third
in reply to mine of January
thirtieth not satisfactory x
must have written reply to
all questions in said
letter x

D. R. Francis

Secretary

(Charge G. R.)

6622

INDIAN OFFICE,

1897

Incl. No. 7

Enclosure D. R. Frazar,

Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Gallia, Pa., February 6th, 1897.

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

COPY.

Position.

With Great respect,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Pratt,

Capt. 10th Cav., U. S. A., Subt.

can I see from re-reading that it affords any ground for such sub-
Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, nor
said article either for the President of the United States, the
to say that there is no disrespect, nor intended disrespect, in
The course of Special Agent Dickson's inquiries leads me
edge of the facts and seniority in work for the Indians.

one, and that I was perhaps best able because of intimate knowl-
and say that which I felt a campaign needed to be started by some-
tolerable, which is sought to be perpetuated by outside dictation,
sents the culmination of a state of affairs which has become in-
as all the matter in the edition of the Red Man, is that it repre-
My "explanation" for the article referred to, as well
formation desired.

he would report to you and thus you would receive fully the in-
conversation with him in regard to the matter, which I supposed
mony taken by Special Agent Dickson from my employes, I had full
to, I have to respectfully state that in connection with the testi-
Referring to my letter of the 3rd, and in addition there-
letter, was received last evening.

reply to your letter of January 30th is not satisfactory, and di-
Your telegram stating that my letter of February 3rd in
Sirs:-

Copy.

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

Carlisle, Pa., February 6th, 1897.

Honorable D. R. Francis,
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

Your telegram stating that my letter of February 3rd in reply to your letter of January 30th is not satisfactory, and directing that you must have written reply to all questions in said letter, was received last evening.

Referring to my letter of the 3rd, and in addition thereto, I have to respectfully state that in connection with the testimony taken by Special Agent Dickson from my employes, I had full conversation with him in regard to the matter, which I supposed he would report to you and thus you would receive fully the information desired.

My "explanation" for the article referred to, as well as all the matter in the edition of the Red Man, is that it represents the culmination of a state of affairs which has become intolerable, which is sought to be perpetuated by outside dictation, and against which I felt a campaign needed to be started by someone, and that I was perhaps best able because of intimate knowledge of the facts and seniority in work for the Indians.

The course of Special Agent Dickson's inquiries leads me to say that there is no disrespect, nor intended disrespect, in said article either for the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, nor can I see from re-reading that it affords any ground for such supposition.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,
R. H. Pratt,
Capt. 10th Cav'y., U. S. A., Supt.