

13425

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs,
Rec'd APR 10

1897

4 114 ✓

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. April 9, 1897.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

*Reports inefficiency of
Miss Florence Bonifant
to fill position of Asst.
Seamstress, and requests
orders in the case.*

To Carlson Apr 22/97

File

E

D

In reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., April 9th, 1897.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The superintendent of our sewing room reports today, in regard to Miss Bonifant recently appointed Assistant Seamstress, as follows:

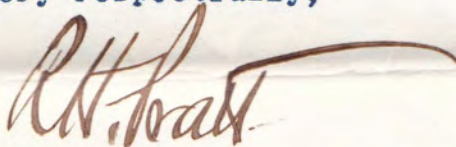
"Miss Florence Bonifant who came to take Miss Wetzel's place in the sewing room is entirely incompetent to do so. I do not consider her an ordinarily good plain sewer, and she cannot work a buttonhole as well as thirty or forty of our girls. We have at least a half dozen girls on the school roll more competent in every way to fill the position. From what I have been able to see of her work it does not appear to me that she will ever be able to accomplish the amount of work that the position calls for. She not only is inexperienced in dressmaking, but lacks the ability to "take hold" of the work. She is a very lady-like, pleasant girl to have if she was only competent."

I informed you I had no Indian girls sufficiently competent to put in this place, and yet I have quite a number who are more efficient than Miss Bonifant. Miss Bonifant claims to be a stenographer and typewriter, but that she took the examination for assistant seamstress in order to be with her sister in the school at Cherokee, N.C. The large amount of work to be done makes it important that we be not long burdened with such incompetent help.

Hon. Com. of Ind. Affairs.-2-

I respectfully request your orders in the case, and would suggest that before Miss Bonifant is transferred or promoted to some other school you have her qualities tested by some capable seamstress in whose judgment you have confidence.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "R. W. Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated)
Mc