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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs.  
Rec'd MAY 15

1897

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. May 14 1897.

Pratt, R. H.,

Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Replying to letter dated  
May 12 th, marked "Educa-  
tion 16396" in regard  
to return home of  
Webster Galbraith, pu-  
pil at this school.

1 Enclosure.

A Blackfoot May 17/  
" Carlisle " 17/97

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In reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., May 14th, 1897.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

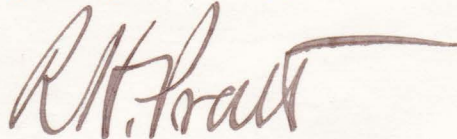
Referring to your letter of May 12th, marked "Education 16396" informing that you are in receipt of a letter from John S. Galbraith Blackfeet Agency, Mont., who desires his son, Webster, to return home at the expiration of the time for which he was entered, stating that Agent Steel advises that the father wants the boy raised to the cattle business which he will follow hereafter, and that when the boy was carried to this school he (Agent Steel) understood he was to be returned in three years; that he has already been here three and one-half years, and that you desire a recommendation and report from me, I have to respectfully advise you that we have not received students at this school for less than a five years' term, except when they graduate sooner, for 14 years past.

Webster Galbraith is a small boy, 15 years old. He entered at the Second grade in October, 1893, and is now in Sixth grade. Although a bright boy, he is in some respects not a desirable student, and could very well be spared except for the sake of discipline and the schooling of his people to keep their agreements and to give their children up to education, instead of schooling them to constantly defeat the purposes of the Government by their opposition and irregularities in accepting the educational advantages which the Government provides.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Webster is now in the country for the summer under our Outing. It was an imposition on the Government that he came here at all. He was under our age, and then too young and small to be of use to his father. His father is probably a white man and should see to his children's education. If the Department wishes to comply with the father's wishes to let the boy go home, I would only suggest that inasmuch as the coming of the boy, and the care and training have been no expense to him, and he is demanding him before the time, he be required to pay the expense of his return home. I enclose copy of my recent letter to Agent Steel on the subject.

Very respectfully,

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

Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated)  
Mc

Encl. INDIAN OFFICE.

1897

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Incl. No. /

Indian Industrial School,  
Carlisle, May 14, '97

Copy of recent letter  
to George Steep, U. S.  
Indian Agent, Blackfeet  
Agency, Mont., in regard  
to return home of  
Webster Gallbrath

ly

(COPY)

In reply to:

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

Carlisle, Pa., April 8th, 1897.

Geo. Steel,  
U.S. Indian Agent,  
Blackfeet Agency, Mont.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of March 31st, inclosing letter from John Galbraith and Harry A. Scheldt, advising that their boys were needed at home, I have to respectfully advise you that we undertake the education of students conditioned upon their remaining here at least five years, unless they graduate sooner or are compelled to abandon school on account of health. These boys have not been here their full time and are therefore not entitled to go home on that account. Joseph Scheldt has now begun to get on well in school, and it would be a real injury to him to break in upon his course. His time is out next year when he will go home on that account. If I admit the break in his case, for the same reason I must admit it in any other case, and so bring on no end of complications. Webster Galbraith is a little fellow, too small to be of any use except to do chores and work about the house. Carlisle can do him a great deal of good, and for the same reason I am unable to accede to his father's wishes and your recommendations. Having over 800 pupils to care for, we are compelled to hold the lines rigidly.

Respectfully,  
(Signed) R.H. Pratt,  
Capt. 1 Oth Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated) Mc