

13634

OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec'd MAR 24

1898

Capt. R. V. Pratt,  
Carlisle School.

Mar. 15, 1898.

Ref. to organizing an  
Indian Band under  
Mr. Wheelock to be  
sent to the Paris Ex-  
position.

To Carlisle Mch. 24-98

FILE

Supl.

My great desire in the matter is to do something in a  
large way that will counteract the demoralizing and depressing  
influences of "Whittier Hill's Wild West Show" which will un-  
doubtedly show up there as it does at all other places of this  
kind, and lead the people to see that the Indian has deficiencies  
of a higher plane than those presented by Mr. Cody.

Very respectfully,

*[Handwritten signature]*

(H)

Refer in reply to the following:

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, March 15, 1898.

13634

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

Sir:

Referring to my letter of recent date suggesting the organization and training of a large Indian Band under Mr. Wheelock, our present Band-leader, with a view to its hearing at the Paris Exposition in 1890, I request that I be authorized to send Mr. Wheelock to any Western Schools where bands are organized, and that he have your authority to make selections from those bands of a limited number, not more than two from each, of the best musicians, dividing the selections so far as possible among the different tribes, and that the Superintendents be instructed to transfer such selections to Carlisle at once, and I will make the necessary arrangements and pay the cost of their coming.

Should Mr. Wheelock select any young people who are in bands who expect to appear at Omaha, an arrangement could easily be made that would allow them to remain with them until after the Omaha Exposition, and then be transferred to Carlisle.

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JUL 14 1883  
INDIAN BUREAU  
WASHINGTON

I understand, of course, the impossibility of the Department inaugurating any certain scheme of this kind without an appropriation and direction of Congress, but there is no question but what the United States will make a very large appearance, and the Indian Bureau will need representation, and should the Government fail to take notice of this feature, I consider it entirely within range to secure the means and send the band anyhow.

My great desire in the matter is to do something in a large way that will counteract the demoralizing and depraving influences of "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" which will undoubtedly show up there as it does at all other places of this kind, and lead the people to see that the Indian has qualities of a higher plane than those presented by Mr. Cody.

Very respectfully,

R.H. Pratt  
Capt. 10<sup>th</sup> Cav

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