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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
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*Indian Industrial School,*

*Carlisle, Pa. March 8. 1898.*

*Pratt, R. H.,*

*Captain 10th Cav'y, Supt.*

*Replying to letter of Jan. 24th  
marked "Education" in  
regard to resignation of Miss  
Nana Pratt as clerk.*

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Department of the Interior,  
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa ., March 8th, 1898.

To the Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of January 4th, marked "Education", accepting resignation of Miss Nana Pratt as clerk at this school, and your subsequent action in temporarily appointing Miss Edith McCook, and your directions that I inform the Office whether I prefer a male or female to succeed Miss Pratt and the special qualifications the clerk should possess, I have to respectfully advise you that the amount of personal correspondence devolving upon me, made it necessary some years ago that I should have the exclusive use of a stenographer. The amount of the routine work of the school upon the other clerks required all their time, and the amount of my correspondence with parents, agents, and people all over the Indian field, as well as answers to inquiries from people throughout the United States, and my official correspondence, being ample to consume the full time of a stenographer. I utilized my daughter for many months, because of her familiarity with the geography of the Indian country and Indian names and with the needs of the school, and I paid her myself. I afterwards nominated her for the place, and she was exceedingly useful to me, but the amount of work to be done brought on typewriter nervousness, and it became necessary for me

to consider someone to fill her place. After considerable search, I selected Miss McCook, who was recommended very highly by people in Philadelphia. I paid her for her services, in addition to my daughter's, for some time, outside of Government funds, until she was finally familiar with the work, and had obtained sufficient knowledge of the geography of the Indian field and its names, etc., to make her services really useful. When I felt that I could spare my daughter from the place, she resigned, and I asked the appointment of Miss McCook, who fills the place to my entire satisfaction. It would be impracticable for me to take a Civil Service employe in her place. The education of even a skillful person to fill the place properly would require quite a good many months, and if the person was not adapted to the work, the annoyance of it would be more than I would care to endure. I have verbally stated to you that if I cannot have Miss McCook as a regular Government appointment for the place, I would prefer to have the place dropped from the list of appointments at the school, and I will in some way raise the money to pay her salary. I now put this matter officially before you in that light. The ninety days for which Miss McCook can serve under the rules has expired.

Very respectfully,



Capt. 10th Cav'y., Supt.

(Dictated) Mc