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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAY 27

1899

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. May 25 1899.

Pratt, R. H.,

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~~Captain~~ 10th Cav'y, Supt.
Major 1st

Suggesting that Congress
be asked to amend law relat-
ing to the selling of whiskey
to Indians, making it include
"giving or furnishing as prin-
cipal or agent" etc.

To Pratt June 5/99
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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., May 25, 1899.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

I respectfully invite your attention to the act approved Jan. 30th, 1897 prohibiting the sale of intoxicating drinks to Indians, and providing penalties therefor. I have just had two cases in the U. S. court in Philadelphia ; one, that of a white man who gave liquor to one of my boys while riding with him in the wagon, and who was convicted ; the other, that of a colored man to whom the boy while under the influence of the liquor given him by the white man, appealed for more. The negro took the boy's money, bought the whiskey and gave it to him. The judge dismissed this case on the ground that the negro only acted as the agent of the boy and that none of the terms in the law applied. I have had a number of cases here in Carlisle, and find this loophole which is understood by some of the Indians, particularly by those who have been associated with whiskey drinking Indians at their homes.

We should be able to reach such cases, and I respectfully suggest that that Congress be asked to amend the law so as to include cases of this kind. I suggest the insertion of the words, "Or in any way procure for or furnish either as principal or agent", after the words, "That any person who shall sell, give away, dispose of, exchange or barter," making it read, "That any person who shall sell, give away, dispose of, exchange, barter, or in any way procure for or fur-

nish either as principal or agent".

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "R. H. Pratt", written in a cursive style.

Major 1st Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)