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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec DEC 21

1900

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Dec. 19. 1900.

Pratt, R. H.,

Major 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Enclosing letters, one from Mr. Standing, and one provided by W. M. Robertson from Ind. Agt. at Pine Ridge, S. Dak. with his endorsement.

Setting forth conditions + causes of difficulty in securing pupils from the reservation, and calling attention to the inefficiency of the present Office method of transfer.

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E. Miley

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 19, 1900.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :-

It is now fully proven and established that the system upon which the Office is working has finally and successfully blocked the way to our getting children for this Carlisle school. I have corresponded in many directions, have replied to individual applications and have done what I could to fill up the school to its one thousand quota. The method has been expensive and the results disappointing. At no time since the Office established its present method of transfer have any voluntary transfers from Agency schools been made to Carlisle worth speaking of. It has devolved upon ourselves from year to year to make our own struggle for pupils, as I believe it devolves upon Haskell and the other non-reservation schools to accomplish the same end. The process of building up school facilities on every reservation for all the children of the reservation has finally borne its legitimate fruits. I sent Mr. Standing to the various agencies in Oklahoma after children. He has repeatedly written me about the conditions at different places. I think it best that you read carefully one of his letters herewith.

I asked your influence with the agent at Pine Ridge, so that we might work on another line and secure children through one of the employes there; but the Pine Ridge Agency is now, as it has been for

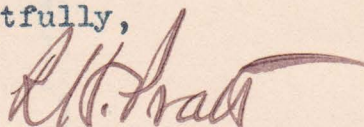
years, a close corporation, and it is plain that no children are to be permitted to go away, notwithstanding the fact that any quantity of them are anxious to go. The desires of the children in the premises are not considered, and the parental consent provision is worked against us continually. The enclosed letter from the agent to Mr. Robertson and Mr. Robertson's endorsement explains the situation there. I should be glad to have these letters back for my files.

Thomas BlackBear, the only person in reach whom Mr. Robertson would trust with his school, is one of my pupils, taken in the rough and Carlisle made throughout. There never was and never will be a teacher turned out by the Pine Ridge schools.

Of the six young men employed in the agent's office at Cheyenne Agency, five were prepared for such duties by the Carlisle school and one by Haskell. That agency has had schools since 1871, now 29 years. Not one of those schools has produced a useful office help, nor so far as I know a useful help of any kind, and Mr. Standing says the school people acknowledge that they never have and never can give this advanced skill and ability; and yet the situation tells us plainly that it is not the intention of those in charge to let these young people have any opportunities beyond the tribe.

I await your directions.

Very respectfully,



Major 10th Cavalry, Supt.

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Indian Office.

1900

Incl. No. /

1st Endorsement
Porcupine S.D.

Dec, 17th 1900

My dear Major Pratt,

The sentences underlined within, plainly debar me from giving you the assistance that I would like to in this matter,

It would, of course, interfere with my school duties.

There is only one person within reach whom I would trust with my school (Mrs R. has never taught) and that person is Thomas Black Bear, one on other occassion I suggested his name as a proper & efficient person to take charge of the school during a two weeks absence, disapproved, and of course, I could not

not offer his name again,

I tell you this in confidence as Mr Dew, and I are on good terms officially, and owing to the relative positions we hold in the service it would not be policy for me to be otherwise,

at present, then, I am unable to do anything, during the summer vacation I may be able to do something towards getting up a party for the fall term,

With best wishes for yourself & school
I am sir

Yours sincerely
W.M. Robertson

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Dec. 19 1900

Pratt, R. H.

Major 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Letter provided by W.M. Robertson
Day School Teacher, from U.S. Ind.
Agent at Pine Ridge, S.Dak.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Pine Ridge Agency, S. D.

December 3rd, 1900

Mr. W. M. Robertson,

Teacher No. 15 Day School.

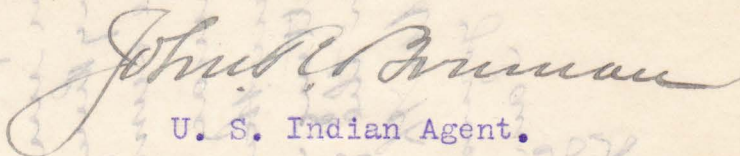
Porcupine.

Dear Sir:

I inclose letter of Major Pratt of Carlisle, Pennsylvania to you, which is self explanatory. I received a letter from Commissioner Jones in regard to this matter.

You have my permission to lend what assistance you can to further the wishes of Major Pratt, providing it does not in any way interfere with your school duties. Should you undertake to get up the party and go to Carlisle with them, you must get some suitable person to take your place in your school work. Your wife or some other person competent, and who will be acceptable to Mr. Dew, Superintendent of Day Schools. You will be granted a thirty day leave of absence for this work.

Very respectfully,


U. S. Indian Agent.

JRB-(H)

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Indian Office.

1900

Incl. No. 2

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Dec. 19 1900.

Pratt, R. H.,

Major 10th Cav'y, Supt.

Letter from Mr. Standing, telling
of conditions at Darlington, Okla.
and other southwestern agencies.

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In reply to:

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Darlington N.C. Va
Dec 9th, 1900

Major R. H. Strick

Carlisle Pa

Dear Sir:

Arrived here Friday night from Cantonment & find the same conditions at both places viz. every available pupil needed to make the number to keep things going under the present Dept. regulations, which limit the amount to be spent at every school to \$70⁰⁰ per ^{for salaries} capita and one teacher to 50 pupils. The \$70 per capita has resulted in a lessening of employe force at every place and so also the teacher ratio. Of course I know \$70 is high, but it puts the people under the necessity of holding their quotas when there are no others to draw from.

I have talked matters over with Major Strick, and he frankly says there are too many schools on this reservation than should be viz. Red Moon Capacity 75 attendance all they can get (50), and Cantonment Capacity 125 & full. There are (57) schools in all (41) boarding and one day - the latter he expects to advise be closed before long.

In reply to:

Department of the Interior, INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

I have your message about visiting Pawnee Sioux
and Osage. I intend to make Sioux my next place
but consider it useless to visit Pawnee or Osage - Sioux
being the headquarters for Pawnee & Osage has
been several times visited with practically no results.

As regards this place my presence and object has
been announced through the police and all old students
invited to call, and applications or information asked for
but so far as those now in school are concerned nothing can
be done at present. Mayor says he will look into the matter
of transfer at the end of the school term, and see what
there is for evidence.

I was quite surprised to find Frank Shively in the
office here as leasing clerk at \$1000⁰⁰ per year, he is very
efficient - for a young fellow, but the job is a big one for him
Charles Cornelius had the place but has some business
with, & is in bad repute. There are six Indians in the
Agents Office, viz. Frank, Robt Burns, Hy Wash, Robt Bent,
John Bent & a Munsee boy from Haskell, all efficient
but not one from their home school & the people are
frank enough to acknowledge these names will be -

Carlisle

In reply to:

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

In regard to Frank Mussy I have that he & wife have separated his injuries became so onerous that she obtained a divorce and now lives in Wichita mind quite unbalanced, so he must not do at all for your work.

The weather has been fair, but is getting colder very keen at times - I shall hope to have a wire from you at once care of agents as to my future movements.

I find that the old method of getting papers will not work with scattered Indians, so scattered that the work of parents cannot be done only be done by taking time and opportunity using the officials, or at some general gathering as the payments twice a year, at different stations.

Respectfully

A J. Standing

Act. Supr.