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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAY 12

1902

68/107

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. May 9 1902

Pratt, R. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav'y, Supt.

In reference to application
of W. G. Williams of Minn.
I.T. for admission to Car-
lisle for his two children.

Refers to circular concerning
order for dismissal of mixed
bloods.

21016

Enc. 1 Enc. Carlisle May 14/02

E. J. J. J.

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, pa., May 8, 1902.

To The Honorable,
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

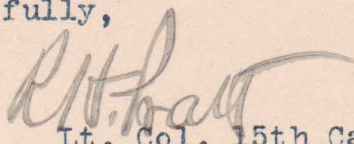
Sir :-

I enclose application of W. G. Williams, Minco, I. T., requesting me to accept of his two mixed blood children here as pupils, together with copy of my reply. From the heading of his letter it appears that he is president of a bank.

In my judgment Office letter "Education" dated April 16th covers this matter to some extent, but ought to go much further. As the white blood is supposed to be the civilized and stronger, a mixed blood one half white should by that fact be carried over to civilization's side and not be classed as Indian. Certainly any person more than half white should be dropped as an Indian. Where by neglect or accident the blood remains less than one half white it may be considered that the strength of Indian blood would entitle the person to be classed as Indian. I should be glad to see the Government take action placing the conclusions as strongly as I have here stated.

I request that Mr. Williams' letter be returned for my files.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

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Indian Industrial School.

Carlisle, Pa. May 9, 1902

Pratt, R. H.,

Lt. Col. 15th Cav. Dept.

Copy of letter to W. G. Williams
Naves, D. T. on admission of
his two children to Carlisle.

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., May 8, 1902.

Mr. W. G. Williams,
Manitou, Colo.

My dear Sir :-

I have yours of the 5th in reference to your daughter and son coming to this school.

The fact that you are of such standing and means as to be president of a bank indicates that you are capable of providing for and looking after the education of your children yourself, and that being the case, why should the Government be asked to undertake their education ? I can assure you from very long experience that if you put your children into the public schools of your town and let them grow up contending with the young people of your community they will be far more capable of taking care of themselves and competing with those around them than they would be if relegated to any Indian school. The education of children to independence of action and giving them the courage and ability for competition in our American life is poorly accomplished by the best of our Indian schools, and then only by such schools as throw them out into the public schools and require them to take care of themselves, as we do to a considerable extent here at Carlisle. Having, as I believe, your interests and the interests of your children at heart, I feel that I ought to say this much to you. If your children came to me it would be my object as early and for as long a period as possible to do just that. If you are located where you can do this yourself you can certainly do

-2- Mr. Williams.

it much better than I can, because you are giving your whole attention and mind to two children while my attention and energies are divided among hundreds.

I might say to you in addition that the Department has sent all schools a circular requiring the return to their homes of all children of only one eighth Indian blood living off the reservation and of all living on the reservation of less than one eighth Indian blood. My judgment is that where the father is a white man, he being the head of the family and a civilized man, acquainted with the customs and systems of the country, ought as some return to the Government for the extra privilege he has had of living on a reservation undertake the training and education of his own children where it is at all possible for him to place them in school; unless perchance there should be some exceptional ability which would warrant him in presenting his boy for education at Annapolis or West Point. The Government is making a great effort to get its Indian population on its feet with ability to go alone and without the expensive special supervision it has heretofore given. It does seem to me that the white men who have intermarried with the Indians should be the very first to cooperate.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) R. H. PRATT.

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

A TRUE COPY.

R. H. Pratt
per