

42483

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JUL 19

1902

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. July 17 19 02

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Facts in case of Roger T. Jameson + Clara F. Jameson, children of James T. Jameson of Steamburg, N.Y.

Returning letter of Darwin Congden, Attorney

To Congden July 26/02

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, pa., July 15, 1902.

To The Honorable,

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

Sir :

Replying to yours of July 15th marked "Education 40586" enclosing letter from Darwin Congdon, Attorney, of Randolph, New York, who urges the return of Roger T. and Clara F. Jameson, children of James T. Jameson, a Seneca Indian of the Allegheny Reservation, Steamburg, New York, I have to advise you that Roger Jameson and his sister Clara came to us September 19, 1900 for a five years term, having been turned over by their father to Miss Barr, my school nurse, whom I sent to Salamanca, New York to receive such suitable students as applied for admission here.

There are before me more than a dozen letters concerning these children, several written by the missionary, Rev. M. F. Trippe both for and against their return, two by the physician attending Mr. Jameson, two by the Secretary of the Western New York Society for Homeless and Dependent Children, and two by Mr. Congdon, beside those written by the parents themselves. The question of the father's health was made the basis of appeal very early in the correspondence. On my suggestion to Mr. Trippe, the physician was asked for a report on Mr. Jameson's condition and in February last wrote,

"James Jameson is getting along nicely. If nothing sets in he will be able to be outdoors and at work in a few days. They seem determined to have their children home, but I think it would be better to leave them where they are to finish their education."

This condition was confirmed by the missionary, Mr. Trippe, but he afterward yielded to the appeals, changed his mind and helped on the urgency. Mr. Congdon, the lawyer, wrote me in May last and assuming that it was a matter of legal right demanded a copy of the contract under which I held the children. To this I paid no attention.

The boy is now at work near the school for the summer. Before coming here his opportunities for education were very poor, and he has reached only the fourth grade here. I ought to add that on the urgency of Mr. Trippe I had Roger come in from his country home on May 30th to go home. When he arrived he said he had a letter from home that the folks were all well and willing for him to remain here, and expressed himself to me as exceedingly anxious to continue in his opportunities at Carlisle. It seemed a frank and truthful statement on his part and I allowed him to return again to his place in the country. The demands for the sister being less urgent I did nothing toward returning her. She is also in the country.

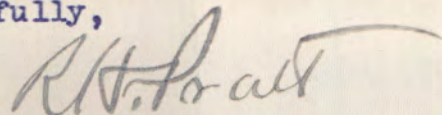
It has been necessary for me to take the position that illness of parents or relatives at home should not operate as a reason for the return of children. If it did we should be in a mess at once. Having sent their children here for a fixed time and the children themselves being contented and in good health and making good progress I have staved off these appeals.

The problem is to get stability, intelligence and industry into the children. They are practically demoralized on these lines by reservation and tribal conditions and we cannot secure the end sought if we yield to the changing whims of parents and home influences.

They, anticipating the payment by the Government of a considerable per capita amount, we have had unusual urgency for the return of the New York students, and in several cases as in this, the legal fraternity has taken a hand. If the influences at work to break their agreements and secure the pupils' return before the proper time are allowed to prevail we may expect a growing crop of this same sort of experience to follow rapidly. White parents have to make great personal sacrifice for their children and do not among themselves allow such home conditions to interfere with the progress of the children at school. Not only that, but they gladly assume large expense for their education. The Indians are asked only to give their children up to be educated, the Government assuming all expense and responsibility. It would seem that the small inconvenience they are called upon to undergo ought to be enforced when they themselves are unwilling to make such sacrifice as their children's absence may cause, and that the Government ought if it can, and it can, prevent another crop of ignorant and worthless paupers, who not only minister nothing to, but obstruct the general welfare.

Mr . Congdon's letter is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,



Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

Dictated(P)

DARWIN W. CONGDON,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
RANDOLPH, N. Y.

40586

Indian Office

1902

Incl. No. ~~X~~

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The Commission of
Indian Affairs:

Washington,
D. C.

Dear Sir:

Mr James

I Jameson a Seneca Indian of the
Alleghany Reservation of Steamburg, N. Y.
has come to me in an effort to
get his son Roger J Jameson and
his daughter Clara J Jameson home
from the Carlisle School. Mr.
Jameson's health has failed. He was
sick all winter with a heart difficulty
and has been unable to do his work
this Spring. He has a good farm
of about 25 acres near Loddspring
and has had to let it go untilled

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because he could not do the work.
Mr Jimison, Mr Trippe and myself
have written to Col Pratt telling
him the situation and asking
that the children be sent home
to help. We have been unable to
get anything done.

May I ask that you will
investigate the matter and
if possible do something to help.

Dr Snover of Steamburg attended
Mr Jimison during the Winter.

very truly yours

Darwin Longdon.