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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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1902

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Dec. 18 19 02

Pratt, E. H.,

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

Concerning Alaskan
Students.

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Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 18, 1902.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Replying to yours of the 13th instant marked "Education 73203" which has been unanswered because of my absence in Kansas, asking the status of the Alaskans at this school, I have to respectfully advise you that we began taking Alaskans in '91, first two, then three, which was the limit of our number until '94, when our September Quarterly shows five. In December of the same year there were eight. In '95 the number dropped back to seven and then to five, but in '96 rose to six and by the end of the year reached eleven. September, '97 shows sixteen; December, twenty-four; March, '98 - twenty-six; December, '98 - thirty; December '99 - thirty-one; March, 1900 - thirty-two. The number then decreased to twenty-six. June 1st, 1901 we had twenty-seven. September of the same year shows forty-three; December, forty-four, and there it stood until September, 1902 when the quarterly report shows fifty, the present number.

The Alaskan pupils were undertaken under pressure from the Bureau of Education through Dr. Sheldon Jackson. We were allowed to accept them as a proportion of our extras. You know that almost throughout the whole history of the school we have carried on our allowance a considerably greater number of pupils than the appropriation provides.

For fifteen years we have had a lump sum with no special appropriation for buildings, improvements, purchase of land, or transportation, and I have managed to make improvements and even buy a \$20,000 farm and still carry more children than the per capita allowed me would cover. At all the other schools the transportation of pupils, new buildings and additions have been specially provided for in appropriation. For several years we have had an even \$150,000. Taking the last two fiscal years as samples, we should deduct from the fiscal year 1901, \$20,000 for the purchase of a farm, \$10,999 for a new boiler house and boilers and \$7,759 for transportation of pupils, making \$38,758, which taken from our appropriation would leave \$111,242. At \$167 per capita this would provide for only 666 pupils, whereas our average attendance was 967, 301 more than the appropriation called for.

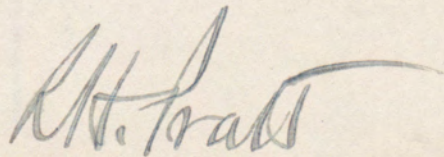
For the fiscal year ending 1902, transportation of students cost \$12,186; additions to the storehouse and other buildings \$7,494, making \$19,680, which leaves \$130,320. At \$167 per capita this would provide for 780. The average attendance was 1032, making the number of pupils carried in excess of appropriation estimate, 252.

You understand very well that this is accomplished, through the ^{but}outing largely, partly through charity. Understanding this, the Department authorized me to accept a limited number of Porto Ricans as well as Alaskans, and we have now about 80 of these two dependent peoples who look to the United States for their education. We keep out a larger proportion of those students who are not directly Indian than we do of the real Indians. As you see from the foregoing we could eliminate from our figures all these, and still our showing

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of expenses would be most favorable in comparison with the other schools.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R.H. Pratt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.

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Indian Office

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1902

Newspaper slip.

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