

4308

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JAN 19

1903

52
4

R. H. Pratt

Leahvale etc

Jan 15

Rel. to Indian
industries

File 1-29-1903.

Pratt

file

43087

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, pa., Jan. 15, 1903.

Miss Estelle Reel,
Supt. Indian Schools,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Reel :

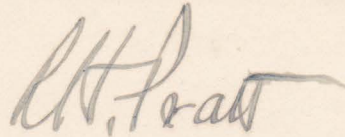
We have not undertaken any of the native industries and arts at this school, and it is not my intention to do anything of that kind, for the reason that we have the greatest abundance of occupations and opportunities to teach the Indians the arts and industries of civilized life which will have some influence to lead them into those arts and industries and so away from Indianism. The perpetuation of the pattering basket and bead work as a venture by the Government is unbecoming and belittling to its own work and calculated to keep up the distinction between the races and to produce no prospective permanent income worth contending for. The pictures I have of bedraggled Indians at some of our watering and summer resorts, Saratoga and elsewhere, at this sort of work all condemn it to me with so much emphasis as to keep me from going into it at all.

If I could have had half as much time with the President as the basket and bead-workers' trust had he would never have said one word about the matter in his message, or if he did would have condemned it. If the Indian Industrial School work is to be dominated by fads of this kind it has no further use for me, and I warn you now that I shall not only continue to speak against it but shall continue to write against it also.

-2- Miss Reel.

You can use this letter in any way you see fit.

Yours truly,

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

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry, Supt.