

5509

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JAN 24

1903

7/1/88

✓ 75-772-02

Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa.

Jan. 22 1903.

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Writes regarding the
4 Rummels children.
Mary Hiram Soule and
Thomas.

1 mi

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To Colville 7/9/03

E. Hill

Department of the Interior,
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 23, 1903.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Referring to your letter of Jan. 10th marked "Education 75792 " and my later telephone conversation with you in regard to the four Runnells children, in which you directed me to keep them here for the present and you would write me a second letter, I have to advise you that no second letter has arrived. I had made all arrangements to send the children home as you directed and certainly have no objections to doing that. The only thing against it is the verbal information from the young lady herself. As I told you, she says the younger boys were not in the agency school at all last year but attended instead a Catholic Mission school; that they left the Government school because of dissatisfaction and that the parents would not again permit them to enter there if they were returned to the agency. She says she resigned her position in the agency school because of the abuse of her mother by the agent in the agency office which she heard, and that at the time she had no intention of going to Carlisle or any other school.

The older boy is I think something of a case, but I have had some conference with him on points of discipline and am ready to believe that his desire to mend is sincere and am willing to give him a chance.

If the original order is to be enforced I should be advised, or

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if countermanded, I should understand that and the Agent also.

The expense of bringing the children from Fort Spokane and of returning them to that point is \$319.78, estimating the return the same as the incoming expense. This under your instructions I should expect to be returned to my appropriation by Mr. Potter.

Very respectfully,

R.H. Pratt

Lt. Col. 15th Cavalry , Supt.

1 Enc. Agent's letter.

Mr. Dorch

Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 23, 1903.

*I want to consult you about
this very*

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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. JAN 31

1903

7/1/16

SALEM INDIAN SCHOOL,
CHEMUNAWA, OREGON,

JAN 23 1903

THOS. W. POTTER,
SUPERINTENDENT & SPECIAL DISBURSING AGENT.

In reference to the pupils
taken to Carlisle from the
Colville Reservation.

To Colville 2/9/03

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten mark]

7205
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

U. S. Indian Training School,
Chemawa, Ore., Jan. 23, 1903.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I respectfully acknowledge the receipt of your letter "Education, 75792 - '02, of Jan. 10th, '03", in which you inform me that the Agent of the Colville Reservation charges me with transferring pupils from his reservation to Carlisle, Pa., without his knowledge or consent, and that I had been secretly negotiating with George Moore to accomplish that purpose.

It is true that four of the Runnels family joined the Chemawa party at Spokane and went through to Carlisle. But the Agent is decidedly mistaken when he accuses me of secretly negotiating with George Moore, as I have never written to Moore or heard from him directly or indirectly since he left the Carlisle School a year or two ago.

I knew nothing, whatever, of Moore trying to get his relatives, the Runnels, or any other pupils to go to Carlisle. Yet I am not surprised that he should be anxious to see his cousins who are growing up into womanhood and manhood receive the advantages of such a school as Carlisle. However, I regret that he did not endeavor in the right way to secure the consent of the Agent. When the Chemawa party was organized for Carlisle I wrote to several of

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the ex-Chemawa pupils who were at their homes informing them of the party that would start and the time we would pass through Portland, Tacoma, and Spokane, so if they wished to go they could join the party at any of those places, and I advised them to go if not at work, believing it would be of the greatest good to them to attend the Carlisle school.

Mary Runnels informed me that she and three of her brothers who were not going to school would join the party at Spokane, that their parents were ^{very} anxious to have them go away to school. I was of the opinion that her father, who is a white man, and mother, a full blood Indian, lived some distance off the reservation in a small town or mining district, ^{and that for the sake of their children} were anxious to get them away from the injurious influences of a rough mining camp in a frontier country, and the thought of any Agent's authority being trampled upon and rules violated never entered my mind.

When it is so difficult to get parents to consent to their children going so far away to school, I can hardly conceive of the real motives of an Agent who is supposed to do all in his power to induce the Indians to send their children out into civilization in accordance with the emphatic wishes of the Department, to demand the return of two of those pupils who are already at Carlisle, feeling that the importance of his office has been so grossly ignored and insulted, when he knows that their parents desire and demand that their children be sent to a school far from home and reservation influences.

To claim that owing to Moore's conduct and assertions, and the Runnels subsequent going to Carlisle would deprive him of any of his power and control, and work great harm to his discipline and

Com. 3.

settled policy, is not, in my judgment, well taken. As the Runnels were immediate relations of George Moore, and no other family or Indians were included, the ^{evil} effects on any of the other Indians are chiefly imaginary.

Indian

There are about 600 children on the Colville reservation, and about 200 in the reservation school. The Indians there are universally opposed to sending their children away I am informed, because of so many of them having died who went to Chemawa years ago before the health conditions had been improved. Therefore, it does not look reasonable to me that an Agent with three or four hundred children on his reservation not in school, and 99/100 of the Indian parents bitterly opposed to sending their children away to school, should demand the return to the reservation of two half-breed boys who desire to stay at school and get out into the world, and whose parents are even more anxious to have them there where they can grow up under the best of Christian influences and obtain a thorough practical industrial education.

I have had Chemawa pupils taken to Haskell and Carlisle at different times without my knowledge or consent, but I realized it was better for the pupils to be at Carlisle or Haskell than at Chemawa, and while I would have preferred to have been first informed, yet I did not try to raise any great commotion over the fact, or feel that I had been robbed of any of the great authority and dignity of my important position. In fact, I try to send off to other schools from 20 to 30 pupils every year for the good of the pupils themselves, as I understand that is really what we are supposed to be working for, and not to satisfy our personal ambitions.

Regarding these Runnels children, I very much regret that

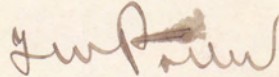
Com. 2.

the rules were violated in any way, realizing that system and organization are necessary to secure the greatest success, but it was certainly done unknowingly and unintentionally, as far as I was concerned, and I trust the Office will so understand it.

If Colonel Pratt considers I am to blame and exceeded my authority in this matter, I will, out of my own pocket, pay the expenses of these pupils, providing the consent of the Colville Agent or the Office cannot be obtained for them to remain at Carlisle.

I have the honor to remain,

Your Obeidnet Servant,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to be "J. W. P. (C)", written in a cursive style.

Superintendent.

T.W.P.(C)

75792

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. DEC 34

1902

7/1/66

Colville Agency, Wash.
December 18, 1902.

Albert M. Anderson,
U.S. Indian Agent.

States that Supt., Potter
has transferred pupils
to Carlisle Indian School
in direct violation of
the regulations with
reference to transfers.

5509

Indian Office

Incl. No. 1

1903

Cap. Colville Jan 10/03
To Salem " " "
To Carlisle " " "

Filed with 5509/03

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Hill

25792
Department of the Interior,

U. S. INDIAN SERVICE.

Colville Agency, - Miles, Wash.

December 18, 1902.

The Honorable

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to report that Superintendent Thos. W. Potter, of the Chemawa Indian School, assisted by one George Moore, a recently returned Carlisle student and a former pupil of the Chemawa school, has transferred 4 Indian pupils belonging to this Agency to the Carlisle Indian school in direct violation of Education Circular No. 57, dated October 12, 1901, and Education Circular No. 84, dated November 1, 1902. The following are the names of the pupils so transferred:-

Mary E. Runnels, (or Reynolds) age 23 years,

Hiram Runnels, age 21 years,

Louie Runnels, age 16 years,

Thomas Runnels, age 12 years.

The transfer of the above named pupils was made during the month of November, and at the time when I was absent from the agency in Washington City attending to official business. No intimation of the contemplated transfer was given to the Agency Clerk who had charge of agency affairs during my absence, nor to anyone else connected with

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the Agency. By arrangement the pupils met Mr. Potter in the City of Spokane on his way to Carlisle with other pupils from his own school, and they all proceeded together and reached Carlisle, so I am informed, about November 22nd. Mary E. Runnels (or Reynolds), one of the pupils transferred, has for more than 2 years past been employed as Assistant Seamstress at the Fort Spokane Boarding School and was, on the whole, a satisfactory and competent employe, and had it not been for the pernicious influence of Mr. Potter she would probably not have left her position. She has now arrived at the age where it should not be necessary for her to attend school any longer at the expense of the Government, having been enrolled at different schools (boarding schools connected with this agency and Chemawa, Oregon) for more than eleven years. In this connection I beg to call your attention to personal conversations which I have had with you in the past concerning matters between Mr. Potter and Miss. Runnels, and while I do not care to discuss the details of these matters in this letter I deem it pertinent to call your attention thereto as you will, no doubt, remember such conversations. Hiram Runnels, a brother of Mary, is now nearly 21 years of age, and his reputation in the community where he has lived is not such as would entitle him to the privilege of being enrolled at the Carlisle, or any other school, at the expense of the Government. Twice he has been arrested and served sentences in jail on suspicion of being implicated in cattle stealing, and is also addicted

Comm'r. 3.

to excessive use of liquor. Louie and Thomas Runnels, brothers of Mary and Hiram, have heretofore been pupils at the Fort Spokane boarding school and should have returned here on reopening of school September 1st, but, as I am now informed, they did not return for the reason that George Moore, the returned student above referred to who is a nephew of the Runnels family, was secretly negotiating with Mr. Potter for the enrollment of all of these pupils at the Carlisle school. Since his return here last summer George Moore's occupation has been that of acting as a go-between for certain saloon keepers and the Indians and in this manner he has succeeded in furnishing a large amount of liquor to the Indians, but I regret to say that I have been unable to secure evidence against him sufficient to warrant me in taking steps looking to his prosecution.

It has been a well established rule among the Indians connected with this agency that no pupils could be transferred to a non-reservation school without first obtaining proper consent from the Agent for such transfer, but George Moore has boastingly informed the Indians that that is not necessary and that he can arrange at any time for transfer of pupils without going through the formality of consulting me of such transfers. You will readily understand, Mr. Commissioner, that it is impossible for me to maintain any settled policy, or control and discipline of the Indians, if promiscuous transfers of this kind are to be allowed, and as in this case, the transfers herein reported having been made in direct violation of school rule No. 17 and the educational circulars above referred to, it be-

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comes my duty to request that these pupils be immediately returned in accordance with the established rules of your office as laid down in the circulars herein referred to.

Your careful consideration of the matter reported is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Albert M. Anderson
U. S. Indian Agent.

A.M.A. (M)