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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
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1903

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. Feb. 28 19 03

Pratt, R. H.,

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

Concerning daughter of Henry  
Landseur.

Returning correspondence.

Yours

7 Encls to M<sup>c</sup>Curber 3/23/03.

E. J. M.  
✓



44441  
Department of the Interior,  
INDIAN SCHOOL SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 28, 1903.

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir :

Relative to Senator McCumber's correspondence with the Indian Office concerning Mary Ladouceur, which correspondence is forwarded me in office letter marked "Education 9353 - 1903", I respectfully present the following in addition to statements previously submitted by me:

The affidavits accompanying the correspondence referred to state that Henry Ladouceur is a man of good moral character, able and willing to provide for the support and education of his daughter. Alfred Venne, a student of this school from the same neighborhood and well acquainted with Mr. Ladouceur, and whose letter forms part of the previous correspondence, says he knows Mr. Ladouceur to be a drinking man and that he regrets to say he has known the man to drink with his own (Alfred's) father and become drunk frequently. Mr. Allen, my assistant superintendent, says the statement was made to him freely while in North Dakota that Ladouceur was, during a portion of the time, obliged to receive aid from his friends and the public in order to live. The assertion that he is willing and able to support and educate Mary may be controverted by the fact just given me by her that he has provided for her education for just four weeks up to the present time. In addition to this he graciously consented to her at-



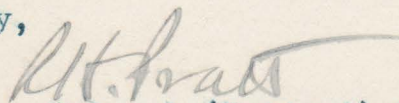
tendance for a few years in a school maintained by the Government. This attendance , however, was so desultory that though she is now about sixteen years of age she is only in the third reader. When she left North Dakota for Carlisle she was working in a low class hotel where she was probably receiving the style of education which her father boasts himself able to provide. According to her statement and the statements of her neighbors ( and none of the signers of affidavits accompanying Mr. McCumber's letter are neighbors except in the sense that they are business men in Walhalla a number of miles away from Ladouceur's home ), she has lived from place to place, sometimes for a brief period with her father, at other times with various relatives, and last as a servant in a hotel. Mary is opposed to returning to the conditions she left and desires to remain here and continue her education.

Where education means so much to the girl and the lack of it comparatively nothing to the parent who, to be most charitable, is ignorant and improvident, it seems to me the wishes of the girl should be paramount.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that she came without solicitation upon the part of any representative of the school, and transportation was provided for her only after <sup>her</sup> brother had used every means at his command except physical force to have her leave the train. He rode from Walhalla to Leyden with the party and before leaving at the latter place said, "She seems so determined to go I guess we will have to let her have her way."

The correspondence is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

  
Colonel (Retired) & Supt.