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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian Indus. School,
Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 10, 1904.

Pratt. R. H. Col. & Supt.

Concerning expense incurred in
collecting and bringing in party
of 33 Indian students from Alas-
ka.

File

R. H. Pratt

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 10, 1904.

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

Sir :

Replying to yours of Feb. 9th marked "Accounts" stating that upon a preliminary examination of my cash account for the 2nd quarter, 1904, you object to voucher 19 for \$295.95 covering the expense of collecting 33 Indian pupils in Alaska and bringing them to Carlisle, and that the proceeding is so unusual and unprecedented that your Office could not under any circumstances submit the said expenditure to the Department without a full and satisfactory explanation showing the necessity for such expenditure; I have to respectfully invite your attention to the fact that for a number of years past I have brought parties of children to Carlisle from Alaska with the approval of the Commissioner, and have paid the expense therefor. Sometimes missionary societies have paid the expenses as far as Seattle and I have taken the children at that point. At other times I have brought them from much more remote points than the one now under consideration, once a party of eleven from Kodiak, Wood Island. These accounts were never questioned.

I also recall to the Commissioner the fact which he has probably forgotten that in July last when I spoke about bringing a party from Alaska the Honorable Commissioner not only did not disapprove but encouraged me to do that, raising only one objection - that Congress had had under consideration a purpose to stop the taking of

Alaskan children into Indian training schools, but as that had not been done he approved of my intention. Acting upon this approval, the expense referred to was incurred.

I may say that the size of the party went beyond my expectation. I authorized Mr. Marsden to bring fifteen, at the outside twenty. He stated that it was extremely difficult to keep the number down; that parents were very importunate and after being denied at their homes brought their children many miles to the steamer when the party was leaving and demanded that they be included; that the parents of one boy being so denied, came a long distance and again importuned at the steamer. Though again told he could not be included because the party was already larger than was authorized, the boy in some way got aboard the vessel and his presence was not detected until they reached Seattle. Mr. Marsden then brought him along.

Very respectfully,


Col. & Supt.