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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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1904

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Indian Industrial School,

Carlisle, Pa. April 26th, 1904

Pratt, R. H.,

Col. & Supt.

Proposing to establish camp
for tuberculosis patients.

To Supt. 5/3/04

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Department of the Interior,

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT,

Carlisle, Pa., April 26, 1904. 190

To The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Sir :

Referring to Circular "Education No. 106" dated March 23rd, 1904, I wish to advise you that by "Vital Statistics" compiled by the Census Bureau for 1900, 12th Census of the United States, Part I, Vol. III, map on page clxxx, the Cumberland Valley occupies a preeminent position of freedom from tuberculosis, from which Indians suffer so greatly. It is even superior to Colorado, Arizona and Southern California in this respect.

In addition to this the people of Pennsylvania have recently inaugurated a system of treatment which has produced some wonderful results. Camps are established in the piney woods on high ground where water is abundant and excellent and the air exceptionally pure, and tuberculous patients are compelled to live in the open air, to do mountain climbing, police their own grounds, cook their own meals, etc. Some of the results shown are marvellous. People who have been taken to these camps in their beds, scarcely able to help themselves at all, have in the course of a few months become hardy and gone back to business.

At Mont Alto, about thirty-five miles west of us, such a camp has been established.

I have now a number of boys and girls, as we have every spring left over from the winter, whose conditions are such as to ordinarily

send them home. Occasionally, students recover who are sent home under these circumstances, but in most cases they linger a while and then for lack of proper treatment and attention and from being surrounded by the degrading, impoverished and irregular conditions at their homes, pass away, and it is charged upon the school, although the facts within my knowledge establish that mortality from the same cause is even greater at their homes and greater from their home schools.

Before receipt of your circular I had under consideration the establishment of a camp for this purpose by way of testing it at the place named above, Mont Alto, and had had some correspondence with the authorities in relation thereto. Under all the circumstances, I feel sure you will not withhold your consent to my doing this, and I shall therefore go on with the arrangement and prove the effect of this sort of treatment on the Indians, which will be established within a few months. Of course, if it should not avail we could abandon it, but it is certainly worth trying. I have tents and can fix them up comfortably, and can put someone in charge who will keep up the routine of duties, exercise, cleanliness, regularity of food, etc.

Very respectfully,

R.H. Pratt

Col. & Supt.

Mr. Decker

*Let him try it
W.H.*