

Miscellaneous

P	OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.	1879
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Dr. R. H. Pratt

Hampton

Jan 14-79.

rel. to the 20
girl question -
School over loaded
with Boys. M

File

Ans. by tel. Jan. 20/79.
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Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.

Hampton, Va., 14th Jan'y 1879

Hon. E. A. Hayt

Commissioner of Ind^a Affairs
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hayt

I take your silence on the twenty girls question to mean assent, and am working it up. I now have guaranties for six with more in prospect.

The school is overloaded with boys, having as you must know fifty seven. To unload, and, as I believe, accomplish more for the boys and the Indian cause in general, I propose to find places for most of the Florida boys, where they will be under good trades or agricultural training, and, as much as possible, isolated from each other. To give them six months of this kind of

of life, or even more, each of the two remaining years of their stay east, after this year, will, to my mind accomplish more than persistent books and school routine, even though labor enters largely into that routine. Independence, self-reliance and better English speaking, will, all, be forwarded more by separation. They are no longer subjects of curiosity, and under such training as seems possible to obtain, will not be noticed or treated very different from white boys under the same circumstances. In company with Genl. Armstrong I have looked the field over, somewhat, from here, and it can be done. That they will do any better in the same time than white boys, I do not by any means proclaim. That they will become finished workmen or Agriculturalists, within the given period of such training, any more than any other race of men, it would be foolish to assert. But it seems to me to be the application

of common sense to Indian life, which is just as much needed for success in that life as any other. Neither do I expect that their return will turn their tribes inside out or outside in, and complete a reformation, that scores of better trained white men have speeded but slowly through scores of years of persistent effort. My aim and wish would be to save the individual. Whatever course ^{hereafter} will best secure that, I hope may be ~~pursued~~ pursued.

I feel confident we shall get the funds and personal interest secured for the twenty girls, or at least sufficient to warrant your recognition of it to the extent of paying the travel expenses.

With great respect

Your obedient servant

R. H. Park
J. C. Cady