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OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS 1880

St. F. Pratt,  
In charge Ind. Train. School.

Carlisle, Pa.,  
Dec. 6, 1880.

Relation to the desire of  
the Grows to have their  
children come to school  
at Carlisle.

Acty says he is thinking  
of establishing another Carlisle  
school near the Indian Reservation  
Cous. L. 1881.

United States Indian Service,

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR INDIAN YOUTH,

CARLISLE BARRACKS,

Carlisle, Pa., December 6 1880

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

Sir:

I am just in receipt of a personal letter dated the 18<sup>th</sup> ultimo, from Lieut. Kishington of the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, stationed at Fort Gustav, Montana Territory, in which he makes a plea to me on behalf of the Crow Indians, who, he says, are quite anxious to get some of their children at this school.

I give the following extracts from his letter.

"Why are the Crows not allowed a share of your school the same as other Indians? The Crow Indians have always been at peace with the whites, and as wild, untutored and warlike as any body of Indians ever were. They have never been taught any civilized pursuits. They think of nothing but accumulating plenty of horses and possessing good guns, wandering over their creation and warring upon the Sioux. Their present Agent is succeeding

in getting some of them to farming <sup>and</sup> raising cat-  
tle. It may I believe, in time tame them to a  
white man's way of living, but some day in the  
near future before this is accomplished, I fear  
they will of necessity be trouble with the poor  
creatures. The buffalo is their main subsistence.  
The allowance from the Government does not begin  
to keep them. The buffalo - this northern herd -  
are rapidly going, being killed by the white men  
for their hides during the winter, <sup>and</sup> by Indians  
both northern <sup>and</sup> southern for food during the  
summer, so it is but a question of two or three  
years before the buffalo are all gone. When the  
buffalo are gone, what are the Grows to live on?

Do they know anything of white men's methods  
of toiling for a living? Very little. They have actu-  
ally been taught nothing, <sup>and</sup> now I fear it is too  
late to accomplish much with them before their  
troubles begin. White men are crowding rapidly  
on upon them <sup>and</sup> will soon occupy every bit of  
ground to the very edge of their crevations <sup>and</sup>  
gradually the crevations if they can.

Presently the injunction will go forth that the Grows must be taught at once. Then commences the trouble, but it may be brought about by such white men. They are a well meaning, good people who could have been, <sup>and</sup> may yet by careful management become self sustaining.

I have talked with them about your school <sup>and</sup> they are pleased with the idea. In fact they are enthusiastic <sup>and</sup> anxious to have their children educated. There will be no trouble in getting fifty children. If you wish them <sup>and</sup> can give the authority I will promise to bring you fifty children or more, with an interpreter who is thoroughly reliable."

I forward this extract to you because the matter of educating the Grows has been canvassed by the Secretary, <sup>and</sup> I know his desire to get some of them into our eastern schools. Lieut. Kistingbury I have known for years, <sup>and</sup> he would not say that he could do this without knowing that he could do it. I would recommend that the Department ask to have him detailed from the

War Department to bring the fifty Grow children east. In this connection I would state that Lieut. Kirlingbury is one of the few officers I know, whose services in connection with this kind of work would be valuable.

He states that there are usually one or two boats sent down from Gustet early after the Yellow Stone breaks and that the children could be brought down to Oismarch by the boat on special rates.

Very respectfully  
Your obt servant  
R.H. Pratt

Act Lt. 10<sup>th</sup> Cav., in charge.